

Qasem praises ACC efforts

TUNIS (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem has said that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) is designed to promote joint Arab action among the four-member countries and open the gates of Arab cooperation with the other Arab countries. Addressing the 91st session of the Arab League Council Wednesday here, Qasem conveyed Jordan's appreciation to all the Arab countries for welcoming the establishment of the ACC. Stressing that the ACC is founded on well-studied bases, Qasem noted that membership in the ACC is open for any Arab country. Its establishment is intended to reinforce ties among the Arab people, he said. The establishment of the ACC, he added, is in harmony with current regional and international trends which aim at forming economic gatherings so as to preserve the member-countries' interests and attain socio-economic development. He also asserted that the ACC would seek to establish the highest level of cooperation and coordination with the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union within the framework of developing joint Arab action. The Arab League Council earlier issued a statement during its 91st session unanimously welcoming the establishment of the ACC and Arab Maghreb Union and regarding them as advanced forms of joint Arab action.

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Mubarak rejects talks with Shamir

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told visiting U.S. senators Wednesday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had turned down an invitation to meet him in Washington next week. A senior Israeli official said Shamir had proposed that he, Mubarak and President Bush hold a ceremony at the White House marking a decade of Israeli-Egyptian peace. "He proposed a meeting like this a number of times but Mubarak rejected the proposal and set preconditions regarding the results of the meeting," Shamir's office said in a statement. Shamir told senators Daniel Inouye, Ernest Hollings and Judd Gregg he was aware that the Palestine Liberation Organisation was making gains in U.S. public opinion. "Even if the PLO succeeded in advancing its public relations, that does not make it a partner to negotiations with Israel, since its final goal is known to us," he said. Shamir said he would stress when he meets Bush that the Israeli people were united in opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state. He gave no indication of any new Israeli peace proposals. Both Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will be in Washington next week for talks with President George Bush on ways to achieve Middle East peace.

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King attends celebration

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Supreme Commander His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday attended a grand celebration Prince Hamzeh Ibn Al Hussein Battalion held on the ninth birthday anniversary of His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ibn Al Hussein. His Majesty was accompanied by Prince Hamzeh, Chief of the Royal Court and the King's Adviser for Arab Army Affairs Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, and Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb. Welcoming the King, the battalion commander delivered a speech expressing pride in naming the battalion after Prince Hamzeh. The celebration included a number of activities performed by the soldiers. His Majesty, later, gave cups to the winning groups. The battalion soldiers also presented Prince Hamzeh a gift on this anniversary. A number of officers were also present.

King pays tribute to Catholic priest who donated heart, kidneys

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday paid tribute to the late Roman Catholic Priest William Jamal Ya'qoub Sawalha who passed away last week and whose heart and two kidneys were donated by his family to three Jordanian citizens.

In a message to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Amman Salim Al Sayegh, King Hussein hailed the great man "who had devoted his life to carry out a mission of affection and good deeds, and used his death as a means for the continuation of this mission and to preserve the life of three citizens."

"It is an act of great sacrifice and a sublime act, serving as an excellent example for other citizens," the King said in his message which was also directed to the bereaved family. "I am overwhelmed with a feeling of grief at the loss of Father William Sawalha and share with the bereaved family their sadness over their great loss, but at the same time I am filled with pride at the great deed and the blessed act," King Hussein said.

"Having passed away," Father Sawalha left behind his heart which is now alive in the body of Jamal Hussein and left his kidneys to benefit Marwan Qutaish and Ibrahim Dadouh, giving them a new life," the King said. "Jordan is indebted to the late Father Sawalha for this great deed of which all Jordanians are proud." "May God bless the late priest's soul and comfort the bereaved family for his loss," the King concluded.

A team of Jordanian surgeons led by Dr. Daoud Hanania performed the heart transplant operation at Al Hussein Medical Centre on March 22, shortly after the passing away of the 38-year-old priest who had died of a stroke.

King Fahd extends state visit to Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia decided Wednesday to add a day to his current official visit to Egypt.

Egyptian officials said the extension was to allow more time for talks between President Hosni Mubarak and the monarch. They said the new royal itinerary calls for Fahd's departure Friday instead of Thursday as previously planned.

Fahd, the first Saudi monarch to visit Egypt since 1974, had several hours of talks with Mubarak Tuesday during a trip to the Suez Canal City of Ismailiya.

On Wednesday, the Saudi and Egyptian leaders rode a slow-moving, whistle-stopping special train from Cairo through the Nile River Delta to the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, where they planned to spend the night.

Egyptians have given Fahd a red-carpet reception wherever he has gone since his arrival Monday from Iraq. Thousands of cheering people, many based in for the occasion, lined motorcade routes in Cairo and Ismailiya. In the Suez Canal, dozens of boats blew their whistles in greeting as Fahd and Mubarak made a one-hour cruise in a small yacht.

By any standard, Fahd's treatment has been the most elaborate for any head of state since Richard Nixon in 1974.

Fahd's visit, which began a day after the treaty's 10th anniversary, underscores Egypt's rehabilitation in the Arab World from the ostracism that the 1979 peace treaty with Israel caused.

Seventeen Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, severed diplomatic relations almost immediately after Saudi and Israeli leaders signed the 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

During a visit to Egypt last Saturday to talk with Mubarak and King Hussein, Arafat said Egypt's recovery of its Arab League seat should head the agenda of the proposed summit.

Egypt's membership and moved the organization's headquarters from Cairo to Tunis. Tunisia's capital.

Jordan restored ties unilaterally in 1984, and most of the others followed after an Arab summit in November 1987 gave the go-ahead. Syria, Libya and Lebanon are the only remnants of the diplomatic boycott.

And while Egypt remains outside the League due to opposition by Syria and Libya to ending the suspension, the leaders of Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen have vowed to boycott any Arab summit called before Egypt regains its League seat. The three and Egypt last month founded a supposedly economic grouping called the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

The decision, disclosed by His Majesty King Hussein last Saturday, practically rules out convening an Arab summit without advance assurances that the conference's first session will terminate Egypt's suspension.

Saudi Arabia is to host the next regular Arab summit.

No date has been set, and King Fahd has been reportedly delaying action until inter-Arab quarrels are resolved. He indicated that Arab leaders may set a date for a regular summit after the holy month of Ramadan.

Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has suggested an extraordinary Arab summit on Arab-Israeli peace efforts and said Morocco's King Hassan was agreed to be its host.

During a visit to Egypt last Saturday to talk with Mubarak and King Hussein, Arafat said Egypt's recovery of its Arab League seat should head the agenda of the proposed summit.



A plainclothes Israeli policeman armed with a pistol stands on a Palestinian girl after arresting and throwing her on the ground in occupied Jerusalem.

Arafat arrives for talks in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — PLO chief Yasser Arafat arrived in Algiers Wednesday to brief President Chadli Benjedid on his meeting earlier this month with His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The Algerian News Agency (APS) reported he would also bring the Algerian president up-to-date on the latest round of talks between the United States and the PLO which took place in Tunisia on March 22.

Diplomatic sources in Algiers believe Benjedid is playing a mediating role between Egypt and Syria to prepare the ground for Cairo's readmission to the Arab League from which it was expelled after a separate peace treaty with Israel 10 years ago.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad visited Algeria 10 days ago on a North African tour which also included Libya and Tunisia.

Syria, unlike other Arab states, has not recognised an independent Palestinian state declared at a meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers in mid-November.

In a statement at the airport, Arafat said talks due shortly between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and French President Francois Mitterrand would represent another major gain for the Palestinian cause.

Meanwhile Arafat has promised an Afghan government delegation that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will do what it can for national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The Palestine News Agency Wafa said Arafat made the promise at a meeting in Tunis Tuesday with the delegation led by Najmuddin Kawyami, a member of the Politburo of Afghanistan's ruling People's Democratic Party.

Arafat has good relations both with the Kabul government and with the Pakistani government, which Kabul accuses of helping the Mujahedeen rebels now attacking the town of Jalalabad.

Syrian troops intensify shelling of enclave despite Aoun's call for ceasefire

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian forces blasted the besieged Falangist enclave with rocket fire Wednesday, ignoring a ceasefire Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun had called to halt the bloodiest round of civil war fighting in four years.

"We are adhering to the truce despite the random Syrian shelling that has targeted even hospitals," Aoun told a news conference. "But our patience has limits."

The general set no deadline. He said: "The Syrian leadership is crazy. It is acting in a terrorist way. We shall complain to the U.N. Security Council and the Arab League about the new Syrian attacks."

Sporadic salvos fired from multi-barreled rocket launchers thundered over the Lebanese capital all day, despite the truce Aoun proclaimed at midnight (2200 GMT Tuesday) in response to an Arab League appeal.

The firing intensified at nightfall. Aoun accused Syrian gunners of trying to destroy grain houses and fuel tanks at the Beirut port, which is controlled by his 9th Army Brigade.

The Mediterranean harbour was shrouded in black smoke by nightfall.

Police said a man was killed and four people were wounded in the fresh bombardment. That raised the death toll to 122 and the wounded to 376 in three weeks of fighting.

The U.S. embassy said Ambassador John McCarthy's residence in the suburb of Yarz was struck by a Syrian shell Tuesday night, damaging the living quarters but causing no casualties.

An embassy spokeswoman said McCarthy was in the bomb shelter at the time. The residence lies midway between the presidential palace and the Defence Ministry.

Aoun criticised McCarthy for issuing a protest only when his residence was hit, ignoring the bombardment of other areas of the Falangist enclave.

"I feel sorry that Ambassador McCarthy was able to see only the shell that struck his residence. There were thousands of other shells falling on the people elsewhere. He should have been bolder in his protest," Aoun said.

"Western Europe is closer to us than the United States in this confrontation," said Aoun at the news conference, which was broadcast by Falangist radio and television stations.

Col. Joseph Shidiak, who commands a police unit providing protection for diplomats, said the Belgian and Turkish embassies

Israel masses troops, police in Arab areas

Palestinians to mark Land Day

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Police and troops massed in occupied Arab regions of Israel and the occupied territories Wednesday as ministers warned Arabs not to use the annual Land Day protest for violence against the Jewish state.

Hardline Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon called for tougher laws and more deportations to remove the East Jerusalem leaders of the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

About 4,500 police and 500 soldiers were on alert inside Israel to prevent unrest on Thursday's anniversary of bloody protests in 1976 over the expropriation of Arab land in which six Israeli Arabs were shot dead.

Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising called in a leaflet this week for "strong popular demonstrations and fierce clashes" and urged Israel's 700,000 Arab citizens to join the uprising.

The army told international relief agencies the entire Gaza Strip would be under curfew from Wednesday night until Friday, confining 650,000 Palestinians to their homes.

In the West Bank, troops placed more than 70,000 residents under curfew in Tulkarem, Jenin and five refugee camps.

Arab hospital officials reported that troops shot and wounded nine Palestinians in clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday.

In northern Israel, where most Israeli Arabs live, Palestinian flags were unfurled Wednesday on mosques or electrical wires

and pro-PLO slogans were scribbled on village walls, police said. Sharon, who ordered Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said security services had identified 43 Palestinian leaders of the uprising in East Jerusalem but could not move against them because they were shielded by Israeli law.

Also Wednesday Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin urged changing Israeli law to allow more deportations of Palestinians.

Rabin's remarks came Tuesday night in response to motions from right-wing legislators about recent attempted Palestinian commando infiltrations from Lebanon.

Asked why Israel has not targeted any military action against the mainstream Fatah wing headed by PLO chief Yasser Arafat, Rabin said, according to Haaretz:

"Fateh is not a priority of the Israeli forces because it targets those who plan attacks on Israel."

In excerpts of the speech broadcast by Army Radio, Rabin also disclosed that 6,300 Palestinians from the occupied lands were under detention in Israeli prisons, in addition to 4,000 commandos.

"Why don't you deport them?" legislator Yair Sprinzak of the ultra-nationalist Moledet faction

shouted at Rabin. Rabin was quoted as replying that Israeli law barred him from deporting many detainees because they lived in East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel as part of its capital.

Since the uprising began on Dec. 8, 1987, 49 Palestinians have been deported to Lebanon. Twelve others have been served with expulsion orders.

In a related development, another legislator Dedi Zucker wrote a letter to Rabin protesting that only 27 of 600 complaints of brutality by soldiers in the occupied territories have resulted in trials, Israeli news reports said.

"This gravely damages the army's ability to deter violators of instructions and orders," Zucker said.

Military commanders have said that 50 troops were punished or charged for illegal shootings or beatings during the uprising.

Haaretz reported, meanwhile, that Israel's army has uprooted 23,440 trees along roads where protests are common in the occupied lands during the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising.

In the West Bank city of Hebron Wednesday, dozens of Palestinians shuttered their shops at the start of a three-day commercial strike to protest the death of a 75-year-old merchant who died of a gunshot wound suffered during a robbery last week.

Arab reports said the four assailants were believed to be collaborators with Israel because they had guns.

A 15-year-old Palestinian was shot and wounded in the elbow as army troops fired during protests in Hebron, Arab reports said.

Three Palestinians, including

boys aged 7 and 11, also were reported wounded with rubber bullets in clashes in two refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Israel's army commander in the occupied West Bank said Tuesday that troops were staying out of Arab villages under a new policy to avoid confrontation with Palestinians.

Israel is under pressure from the United States to ease tensions in the occupied territories as a prelude to Middle East peace efforts.

Major-General Amram Mitzna, head of Central Command, told Reuters the new policy had proved itself by reducing casualties in the West Bank in recent weeks, compared with the early months of the Palestinian uprising.

"We have really been going less and less into villages, and I think it has worked," he said before joining Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for lunch at a Jewish settlement.

"We don't want to raise the level of tensions," he said.

Other security sources said Palestinian activists were increasingly taking control of the West Bank countryside because the army lacked the forces to carry out the widespread raids of earlier months.

They said troops effectively controlled only the major towns and highways, with Palestinian popular committees and "striking forces" running as many as 150 remote villages.

The army has cut down on "initiated actions" where troops raid refugee camps and villages to arrest suspected Arab activists and force residents to erase nationalist slogans, they said.

Maksoud: Talks starting on Mideast parley

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab League's U.N. observer has said the U.N. secretary general was beginning consultations with the five permanent members of the Security Council on convening a Middle East peace conference.

A U.N. spokesman was unable to confirm the report and a Council source said he was unaware of such talks.

"I understand that the secretary general is undertaking today, this afternoon, with the permanent members of the Security Council, discussions on the international conference, and I am sure that the Lebanese situation will be a matter of deep and urgent concern," Arab League representative Clovis Maksoud told a news conference.

Fighting over the past two weeks has been described as the worst in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

Maksoud said he had earlier discussed with Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar the deteriorating security situation in Lebanon and the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories, scene of a 15-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Maksoud said he was satisfied with Perez de Cuellar's responses, "especially as he is initiating today intensive discussions to prepare for the international conference."

The General Assembly has repeatedly called for a conference under U.N. auspices to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. It would involve all parties to the dispute, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

Referring to the latest upsurge of violence in Lebanon, Maksoud said it was "bordering on what I would call collective madness."

Preparations for a Middle East conference would make the Lebanese realise that "they have to get their house in order, in order that they can partake in their responsibilities towards Lebanon and towards the region as a whole," he added.

'Montazeri asked Khomeini to stop killings'

PARIS (R) — Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri appealed to Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini at least twice last year to stop thousands of executions, according to letters made public in Paris Wednesday.

The letters showed that Montazeri, whose resignation as Khomeini's successor-designate was announced Tuesday, feared that an implacable wave of official killings was turning people against the revolution and blackening Iran's name.

Iran's official media issued extracts Tuesday from a recent exchange of letters in which Montazeri, 66, told Khomeini he was unfit for the burden of supreme leadership and wanted to return to the simple life of a theology teacher. Khomeini, 86, accepted.

Montazeri's attempts to stop what he referred to as "thousands of executions in a few days" were made in two letters to Khomeini dated July 4 and 31, 1988 and made public by the office of former Iranian President

Abolhassan Bani Sadr, who lives in Paris.

In the July 31 letter, Montazeri told the Imam that zealous acting in his name were going too far with the execution of imprisoned political opponents.

"Many are the innocents and minor offenders who were executed following your last order," he said.

The killings were being seen by the people as "acts of hatred and vengeance" and were alienating the families of the prisoners, most of whom were believers and revolutionaries.

Even if they had recanted, prisoners were still being put to death.

"Violence and executions have so far given us nothing, but they have provoked media propaganda against us and given credit to... counter-revolutionaries," Montazeri added.

If Iran were to display clemency, it would win sympathy. "The execution of thousands of people in a few days will not create

favourable reactions," he said in the eight-point letter.

"If you insist that your order be carried out, then demand that the (prosecuting tribunal's) sentence be unanimous. Demand that women, especially the mothers of families, not be executed."

In the earlier letter Montazeri informed Khomeini that he henceforth refused "all religious responsibility."

He cited the case of a provincial mullah who had complained that a prisoner who had fully recanted was executed anyway.

The prisoner, who was not named, said in response to the tribunal's questions that he was ready to publicly condemn his past opposition and to go to the Gulf war front as well.

But when he refused to declare his readiness "to go to the minefields," the tribunal decided he had not truly changed and had him executed.

Montazeri said the decision had not been unanimous and added that "in reality, it is the

Ministry of Intelligence (internal security) representative who holds the real power whereas the others in fact have no influence."

The tribunal, set up on Khomeini's orders, also included a mullah and representative of the revolutionary prosecutor's office.

In a separate letter to its three members, dated Aug. 15, Montazeri complained of summary executions and "this genocide of prisoners, without trial."

"Combating ideas by means of terror is a mistake," he said. "On what criteria are you now executing people who have not been sentenced to death?"

Montazeri also reminded Khomeini of a verse from the Koran, in which the Prophet Muhammad enjoins his followers: "As far as possible, do not apply punishment. It is preferable to pardon because, in case of error, one can go back on a pardon but not on a punishment."

Hungry Sudanese receive aid

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations plans to send famine relief convoys into rebel-held areas of southern Sudan this week to feed more than 100,000 people threatened with starvation, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Detlef Palm, an official of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which is coordinating U.N. relief operations on the rebel side, said the first convoy of trucks was expected to cross the Sudanese border from Kenya Thursday or Friday.

"We plan to move 25,000 tonnes by road and by air, but we will have only two months to do it," Palm told Reuters.

The onset of the rainy season in May is expected to make most roads and airstrips in southern Sudan impassable.

Palm said non-government organisations would distribute food and medical supplies by truck on behalf of UNICEF to a vast area of southeastern Sudan occupied by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

UNICEF was also planning to airlift food and medicine into rebel-held areas, using planes pledged by Western donors at a conference in Khartoum earlier this month, he said.

The relief operation was announced a day after rebel leader John Garang agreed to let food move through his lines to government-held areas in the South, according to U.S. legislators visiting Sudan.

They said Garang told them SPLA soldiers would escort the food convoys but he wanted foreign observers to ensure supplies were not going to government troops.

Garang's pledge does not affect the UNICEF operation, which will distribute food exclusively to rebel-held areas.

The United Nations estimates a

quarter of a million people died from famine in southern Sudan last year as a result of civil war, drought and flooding.

It has also expressed fears that a further 100,000 could die this year unless 100,000 tonnes of emergency food supplies are moved rapidly into the area.

The United Nations has urged the government and SPLA to observe a period of tranquillity from April 1 to allow the relief operation to take place smoothly.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 against what it sees as domination of Sudan's mainly Christian south by the Muslim North.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who formed a new coalition government at the weekend, urged Garang Monday to respond to government moves to end the civil war.

Palm said relief convoys would cross the frontier from Lokichokio in northwestern Kenya to supply an area of southern Sudan east of the Nile and south of the Sobat River which is as big as neighbouring Uganda.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is organising a similar U.N. relief operation for government-held areas of southern Sudan from Khartoum.

Palm said UNICEF planned to move about half its famine relief supplies into southern Sudan by air, using the airstrips at Pochala, Pibor Post, Kapoeta, Torit and Nasir.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is already airlifting relief supplies into several government and rebel-held towns in southern Sudan, would continue to supply SPLA-held areas on the West Bank of the Nile, he added.

Palm said the ICRC would also continue to supply Kongor, a town on the east bank where it is already operating.

The rebel movement has captured a string of army garrisons in recent weeks and the government's presence in the south has been reduced to a series of isolated towns, many packed with refugees from the fighting.



A Soviet Ilyushin IL-76 releases flares in case of rebel attack with heat-seeking missiles as it comes in to land at Kabul airport.

Suffering children of Afghanistan's long war

By Earleen Fisher
The Associated Press

KABUL — Aminullah was playing near the airport when a blazing point of light descended from the sky and burned his face, arms and legs.

The device doctors say will leave Aminullah scarred for life was one of the thousands of flares unleashed daily by air-planes over Kabul to deflect the heat-seeking missiles fired by anti-communist Mujahideen rebels.

The flares, which are out of the sky trailing a plume of white smoke, are a common sight — as much a part of the Kabul panorama as the snow-capped mountains surrounding the city of mud-brick houses and open sewers.

But they are still a mystery to Aminullah and his mother, Gul Babu, a widow with three other children.

"There is no special warning programme about the flares," said Dr. Lal Mohammad who attends burn victims at the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital. "We tell the women who bring their children here to spread the word to others."

He said as many as six children are admitted each week to the Gandhi hospital with severe burns caused by the flares that are fired or dropped by Afghan military and civilian planes and Soviet cargo planes.

No statistics are available on the total number of flare victims in the Kabul area.

Aminullah, who like many Afghans does not use a family name, sat on a table in the burn ward, his arms held stiffly in front of him as doctors applied solutions.

The top half of his face, from the scalp to the bridge of his nose, was a brown crust with glistening red cracks. Burned tissue had been removed from his cheeks and chin, which were a translucent pink.

He cried as a doctor snipped at flaps of dangling burn tissue. Eight other children in the room had similar burns were varying states of recovery.

Mohammad said most of the flare victims suffered second-degree burns and their wounds usually were not life-threatening.

Before the war But to be a child in Afghanistan is not easy, even in peacetime.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, 30 per cent of all children born in the country die before the age of five. Diseases claim most of the youngsters.

In 1960, when there was relative peace in this nation of constant political and tribal feuds, harsh winters and 75 per cent illiteracy, the child mortality rate was 38 per cent.

Government-operated television shows the children of war almost every night as it denounces the U.S.-backed rebels who are fighting to overthrow Marxist government of President Najibullah.

The decade-old war has claimed an estimated one million lives from the pre-war population of 15 million.

The government seldom fails to say that victims of a guerrilla attack "included many women and children."

On Sunday, the government said the rebels had rocketed a bus the Jalalabad-Kabul highway, killing all the passengers "including women and children." No death toll was given but Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the bus was carrying at least 25 people.

Amani said Monday an unknown number of the passengers survived, but no death toll was given.

On Tuesday, foreign reporters were taken to the Gandhi hospital to see survivors of the attack.

Hospital staffers said they were treating two survivors — 10-year-old Shafullah and Abbas, four — but adult victims were taken to other hospitals. The total number of dead and injured was not known.

Shafullah and Abbas received shrapnel wounds in their legs, according to Dr. Ashraf, head of the 250-bed hospital's orthopedic section.

Shafullah was whimpering into the pillow. The doctor said he had just learned that his mother and two brothers died in the attack.

Ashraf said Abbas's uncle and cousin were killed. Relatives of the victims said the boys were not on a bus.

Instead, one said, they were riding in a convoy of trucks carrying people of Jalalabad, where the rebels have been besieging government forces for three weeks.

Turkish deputy slain in parliament

ANKARA (R) — An opposition deputy was shot dead by another deputy in Turkey's parliament building Wednesday as political tensions ran high after defeats for the ruling party in nationwide local elections.

The semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Abdurrazzak Ceylan, from the centre-right True Path Party (DYP), died after being taken to hospital for emergency surgery for a gunshot wound in the chest.

The agency said the alleged

assailant, Idris Arkan, a member of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party, had denied firing at Ceylan. He said the shot was fired by another deputy.

DYP leader Suleyman Demirel told reporters after the shooting: "This is a regretful, ugly incident. We have not had such an incident under this roof for half a century."

"I don't think it was politically motivated," he said before going to see Ceylan in Ankara's Ibn Sina Hospital.

Members of parliament, among several categories of civilians allowed to carry guns in Turkey, reconvened Tuesday after a two-week recess.

Ozal, a 61-year-old conservative in office since three years of army rule ended in 1983, has resisted calls to resign and call an early general election.

Erdal Inonu, leader of SHP which topped the poll with 28.4 per cent of the vote, said Ozal was heading a virtual caretaker government and that early elec-

tions were inevitable. "Sooner or later, within a year at most, parliament must call for the anticipated elections. The people cannot be satisfied otherwise," Inonu told a news conference.

SHP was followed in Sunday's poll by the DYP with 25.3 per cent. The 21.9 per cent taken by Ozal's Motherland Party (ANAP) was a sharp reversal from its 36 per cent in the 1987 general election.

Benjedid urges FLN to work

ALGERIA — President Chadli Benjedid called on the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) Tuesday to put its house in order to meet the challenges of a new democracy.

Opening a meeting of the party's Central Committee, Benjedid said if the FLN wanted success it had no choice but to reshuffle its ranks and master the new rules.

"The (FLN) must move beyond speculations, and avoid Byzantine debates, marginal conflicts and divisions," he said. Benjedid told other members of the party's Central Committee that reforms which ended the FLN's monopoly on power and set up a multi-party system responded to the wishes of the people.

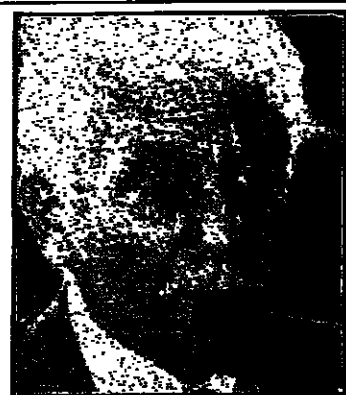
The reforms were contained within a new constitution overwhelmingly adopted in a referendum Feb. 23. They were tabled after the government promised more freedom to end a week of anti-austerity riots in October which left at least 162 dead.

"It was necessary to have a constitutional law, stripped of all political references," he said. The new constitution has deleted virtually all references to socialism.

It allows the creation of independent political associations, guarantees all workers the right to strike and protects collective and individual rights.

A week after it was adopted the Algerian military announced it was quitting politics and removed all its members from the FLN Central Committee in another move reshaping Algeria's political landscape.

Benjedid strongly rejected charges from the anti-reformist, hardline wing of the party that he was trying to turn the page on socialism.



Chadli Benjedid

He said free medicine, education and a house for all would remain the tenets of the country's political faith.

"The constitution does not come down in favour of any one option. The choice is left to the people... socialism cannot be imposed by a constitution or presidential decree," Benjedid said.

Benjedid alluded to recent threats by some Muslim fundamentalists against other Algerians, particularly on university campuses where they are opposed to dual facilities for men and women.

"The state will not permit (threats)... if it is necessary to reply with violence we will reply," he said.

Nahda hits back The Islamic movement hit back Wednesday at a press campaign to discredit it and accused the administration of bias.

A statement by Rashed Ghanouchi, leader of the Nahda (Renaissance) Movement, said actions of the government were lowering the tone of the campaign for the Sunday elections and "give reason to believe that they represent the prelude to a retrograde step."

The Nahda Movement has not yet received legal recognition but it is taking part in the elections indirectly through independent lists in 20 out of the 25 constituencies.

Turkey warns Iran against interference

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey's Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador Tuesday and warned Tehran for the second time in a week not to interfere in Turkish affairs, an official said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu told the AP that Iranian Ambassador Manoochehr Mottaki was "requested to give an explanation" about his reported announcement of economic sanctions against Turkey to protest a Turkish constitutional court ban on university women wearing Islamic headscarves.

The Istanbul daily Hurriyet published an interview Tuesday with Mottaki in which the ambassador was quoted as saying that Iran would reduce its imports from Turkey to protest the court decision.

Mottaki, in a statement to the semi-official Anatolia News Agency, denied Tuesday that he had given such an interview to Hurriyet.

Relations between Turkey and Iran have been strained since the Iranian government declared its opposition to the Turkish court's decision.

Last week the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a protest after Iran complained about the Turkish court ban on the headscarves.

Mottaki was summoned to the Foreign Ministry earlier in the month and told that Turkey was displeased with Iranian press coverage of the Turkish court's decision.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has called the Turkish ambassador in Tehran to protest the court's decision.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini also denounced the Turkish ruling during a speech last week and expressed support for recent demonstrations by Turkish Muslim fundamentalists against the ban on headscarves.

Iran, Iraq join anti-pollution pact

KUWAIT (R) — Iran and Iraq joined forces Wednesday to combat pollution in the Gulf, capping years of talks that continued through their eight-year-long war.

They also agreed to hold further talks with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain Thursday to tackle the issue of clearing an estimated 200 seamounts littering the Gulf.

Iran and Iraq are among eight countries sharing the Gulf coastline which signed a protocol setting out measures to control pollution from offshore gas and

oil exploitation. "For several years, this was the only forum where Iran and Iraq would meet at ministerial level," said one Arab delegate attending the talks in Kuwait.

"They were not even meeting at the United Nations," Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Hadi Manafi and Iraqi Health Minister Abdul Salam Mohammad joined officials from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates at the signing ceremony Wednesday.

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Tel: 773111-19

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PRAYER TIMES
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05:25 (Sunrise) Duha
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St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish

Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285.
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Church of the Annunciation Tel. 677440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
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Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 625843.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.
Baptist Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER
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Aqaba	10 / 25
Deserts	2 / 18
Jordan Valley	8 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Sammour 615648
Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793544
Dr. Youssef Amer 821311
Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 663522
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Marwan Habbab (—)
Al Shara' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hussam Safarini (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence 622090/93
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845402
Traffic Police 656390/91
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Alkhal Maternity, J. Ann 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Madras, J. Amman 664164/6
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Abdi, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mahajra 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775117/6
Army, Marka 891617/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Ansal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991871
The Sina Hospital (09)986732

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:10 Aqaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Jeddah (RJ)
09:20 Cairo (RJ)
09:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:35 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
09:40 Calcutta (RJ)
09:45 Larana (RJ)
10:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
10:20 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:45 Tunis (TU)
10:10 Damascus, Frankfurt (LF)
10:20 Baghdad (LA)
10:30 Bahrain (GF)
10:35 Kuwait (KU)
10:40 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
10:45 Rome (RO)
10:50 Riyadh (SV)
10:55 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
09:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:05 Rome (RJ)
09:10 Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 Athens (RJ)
11:10 Rome (RJ)
12:00 Rome (RJ)
12:10 Larana (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
19:40 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Vienna, Miami (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
20:25 Jeddah (RJ)
21:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
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FOR FRIDAY

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel rejects U.N. teaching plans
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel has rejected a U.N. agency's proposal to teach Palestinian children whose schools were closed because of the 15-month-old uprising, defence sources said Tuesday. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) announced last week that it would arrange for teachers to visit pupils in refugee camps in the occupied West Bank after Israel forced 90 of its 98 schools to close. "It is true we refused the UNRWA proposal to replace the educational system in the West Bank," one of the sources told Reuters. Almost 36,000 pupils attend the UNRWA schools, some of which have been closed for almost 14 months. The agency said it was concerned about the continuity of pupils' education.

Iraq to pay Stark compensation
WASHINGTON (R) — Iraq has agreed to pay damages to the United States for the deaths of 37 American sailors in an attack on the U.S. Frigate Stark by an Iraqi warplane, the State Department said Tuesday. "The government of Iraq has agreed to pay over \$27 million as full compensation for their deaths," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said at a news briefing. The money will go to the victims' families. U.S. officials said the agreement was reached in Baghdad Monday after almost a year of periodic negotiations. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer led a U.S. delegation that thrashed out the last details of the agreement in talks with Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials, Tutwiler said.

Palestine embassy opens in Maldives
NEW DELHI (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) opened an embassy in the Maldives Wednesday, its third full mission in South Asia. The opening in the capital Male was attended by Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel who pledged continuing support for the PLO, the government of the Indian Ocean island republic said in an announcement received in New Delhi. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who proclaimed the setting up of an independent Palestinian state last year, laid the foundation stone of an embassy building in the Pakistani capital Islamabad and opened an embassy in the Indian capital earlier this month.

Soviet-Saudi ties
BAGHDAD (AP) — A lightning weekend visit by a senior Soviet official, coinciding with the presence here of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, was linked with the prospect of the resumption of Soviet-Saudi diplomatic relations, diplomatic sources reported last week. The sources, who wished to remain anonymous, said Vladimir Polyakov, head of Middle East and African Affairs in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, delivered a letter to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz from the Soviet leadership. Which dealt with the prospects of the resumption of Soviet-Saudi ties and with the situation in Afghanistan, they added. Polyakov arrived in Baghdad Saturday on an unscheduled visit, and left for home early Sunday, spending less than 24 hours in the Iraqi capital. There has been no official comment on the subjects covered in Polyakov's talks with Aziz. But the state run Iraqi News Agency said the two discussed matters arising from last month's visit to Iraq by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

ARABSAT to take Egypt back
NICOSIA (R) — Egypt will be readmitted to the Arab League's Satellite Communications Organisation ARABSAT when member states meet in Oman Thursday, an official at ARABSAT headquarters in Riyadh said. Contacted by telephone Wednesday the official said Egypt's return "is firm and the next ARABSAT annual meeting will even be held in Cairo." In 1979 most Arab states severed ties with Egypt and suspended its Arab League membership for signing a peace agreement with Israel. All except Syria, Libya and Lebanon have resumed ties since and Cairo had gradually returned to most of the League's organisations.

Hurd coordinates with Gulf states
NICOSIA (R) — British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd in Oman Wednesday will discuss coordination with Gulf Arab states in the war against terrorism and drugs, a British embassy official said. "His talks (in the Gulf) will focus on coordination and exchange of information in the field of drugs and terrorism," the Muscat-based diplomat said by telephone. Hurd, on a Gulf tour, arrived in Oman from Bahrain Tuesday night and is expected to meet, Sultan Qaboos bin Said before he flies to Kuwait Friday. In Bahrain, Hurd called for international action to seize the assets of drug smugglers. He said he hoped the states he was visiting would sign agreements with Britain on confiscating drug assets and would ratify the latest U.N. convention on the drug trade.

'Libya helping Greens Party'
BONN (AP) — A member of West Germany's Greens Party acknowledged Libya is providing "financial and personnel" support for a peace foundation with which the German politician has links, a newspaper reported in its Wednesday editions. But Alfred Mechttersheimer, a federal lawmaker for the leftist Greens, was also quoted as denying that he is a lobbyist for Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi. Mechttersheimer is under fire within his own party for it was disclosed last week he had connections to the M.A.G. Foundation for peace and solidarity based in Vaduz, Liechtenstein. The Munich-based Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported Saturday that the foundation was funded from a \$10 million account set up in Switzerland by Qadhafi.

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CONGRATULATIONS: Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein was engaged Wednesday to Mr. Majdi Anwar Al Saleh at a ceremony attended by His Majesty King Hussein and members of the Royal family and Mr. Anwar Al Saleh and members of his family. Also attending the ceremony were Prime Minister Zaid Rifaat, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, and Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheifan. The King and those present congratulated the Princess and Mr. Saleh on the engagement.



Princess Basma

Princess Basma ends Kuwait visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma returned to Amman Wednesday at the end of a two-day visit to Kuwait where she inspected social and voluntary services by different organisations.

The Princess also familiarised herself with various activities of Kuwaiti women and their role in socio-economic development.

The visit was made at the invitation of Princess Latifa Al Fahd Al Salem Al Sabah, wife of the Kuwaiti crown prince.

Dakhqan, Khatib confer

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade in India Mr. J. Rengon Wednesday had a meeting with Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan to discuss Indian-Jordanian cooperation in water affairs and dams.

The minister briefed the visitor on irrigation and water projects in the Kingdom and said his ministry was willing to launch cooperation with Indian companies to promote them.

A NOTE TO HEALTH MINISTER

AMMAN (J.T.) — A report in the latest issue of Newsweek recommended drinking milk and other beverages from "glass or plastic" containers rather than paper cartons which have been found to contain dioxin, a powerful carcinogen product. In Jordan paper cartons are heavily being used for milk, juice and other beverages. It would be in order to investigate this matter to make sure that consumers are not subjected to such health dangers.



The British Airways Playhouse Dinner Theatre is here again at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel after a world-wide tour which included the Gulf, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The star-studded comedy, *Touch and Go*, written by Derek Benfield, produced by Derek Nimmo is a story of hilarious marital mix-ups. The play will be performed from March 29 — April 2, 1989.



CHINESE GIFT:

Jordan supports and encourages bolstering of cultural relations with the Chinese people and looks forward to practical steps to achieve that goal, Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri said Wednesday. He was speaking at a meeting with the cultural attaché at the Chinese embassy here who called at the ministry to present a gift of a 1,000 books in

Arabic and English by Chinese writers. The books cover a variety of subjects on culture, literature, history as well as novels; many of them benefiting children. The minister thanked China for the valuable gift and referred in a brief speech to the strong cultural and historical ties between the Arab World and China. The minister expressed hope that Arab Chinese ties will be corroborated in all fields.

Tabbaa inaugurates JCIC second project

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa Wednesday inaugurated the second expansion project of the Jordan Ceramic Industries Company (JCIC) which is operated by Jordanian engineers and workers employing locally produced raw materials and Jordanian capital.

The factory, which covers a total area of 28,000 square metres, produces china tiles, sanitary equipment, electric insulators and other products.

Tabbaa made a speech at the inauguration ceremony in which he emphasised the government's support and encouragement for the local industries. The JCIC project, like other industrial and

economic projects in Jordan has received backing from the government like exemptions from customs duty on machinery to enable Jordanian industries to compete with foreign-made products.

According to the minister, 20 per cent of the JCIC production is being exported to Iraq and Saudi Arabia. He said that the JCIC capital of JD 2 million has been provided by Jordanian investors.

Tabbaa paid tribute to the project which he said will continue to supply local markets and export the surplus to countries of the Arab Cooperation Council in addition to Saudi Arabia.

U.S. specialists evaluate engineering programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team of six engineering specialists brought to Jordan by the United States Information Agency, has completed an appraisal of Jordan University of Science and Technology's engineering programmes. The group studied and evaluated engineering programmes according to accreditation criteria used in the United States. Recommendations by the team will be used to improve the quality of engineering education in Jordan.

The team consisted of six members: Dr. M.E. van Valkenburg, dean of engineering at the University of Illinois; Dean William McMin, college of architecture,

Cornell University; Dr. Lee Harberger, head, department of mechanical and industrial engineering, University of Cincinnati; Dr. Irene Feden, department of electrical engineering, University of Washington; Dr. Dee Barker, department of chemical engineering, Brigham Young University; Dr. Akram Suidan, department of civil engineering, University of Illinois.

This team was the latest of more than 20 academic specialists brought by the American Centre this year to help Jordanian universities develop and improve academic programmes.

Kindergartens' seminar

CAIRO (Petra) — The Arab Council for Child Development (ACCD) will organise a seminar in July to tackle the question of kindergartens and their role in the development of children.

According to Dr. Mamdouh Jaber, the ACCD's secretary general, at least 30 specialists in child development, who are to take part in the seminar, will discuss topics ranging from training teachers and supervisors of kindergartens to the assessment of curricula for children's education at the earlier stage.

The seminar, he said, aims to identify areas where reform can be introduced in kindergarten activities and means of developing kindergartens in the Arab World.

The ACCD's research and studies centre which is based in Amman, Jaber noted, is currently preparing a list of research centres in the Arab World which

concern themselves with child development prior to seeking their assistance in training personnel involved in kindergarten work.

The ACCD's Board Chairman Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia has approved of an annual festival to be held in Cairo to distribute the council's awards to notable writers and authors who produce works dealing with children and children's development, Jaber said.

The centre, he added, is currently cooperating with United Nations organisations to carry out its various child development schemes.

Jaber said he will pay a visit to Jordan in the middle of April to meet Dr. Abdullah Nsour who supervises the research centre's work and discuss plans for the coming stage and the ACCD's participation in a coming meeting in Amman by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

UAE deputy premier praises Jordanian products

ABU DHABI (Petra) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan Ibn Mohammed Al Nahayan, who opened Jordan's first industrial fair here Tuesday said in a statement that he was impressed by the range of high quality goods on display at the fair.

Sheikh Hamdan said that his country was keen on promoting its trade and economic relations with Jordan which is now producing goods that can match similar

foreign products.

The week-long fair displays a wide range of industrial products by 90 Jordanian firms and a number of private sector organisations. The fair in Abu Dhabi, which was organised by the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation also displays documentary films, booklets and leaflets depicting Jordan's cultural, industrial, agricultural and touristic development.



Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas (second from left) Wednesday presides over the first gynaecology conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (Petra photo)

Malhas deputises for Queen Noor

First gynaecology conference opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Gynaecologists and obstetricians from 13 Arab and foreign countries gathered at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Wednesday for the first Jordanian medical conference to deal with gynaecology and obstetrics.

improve still further medical services in Jordan.

Other speakers included Dr. Mohammad Al Zou'bi, the conference's secretary general. Dr. Sa'id Hijazi, who chairs the conference's scientific committee, and Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

The working papers deal with a wide range of topics ranging from abortion to pregnancy and the effects of sedatives on the fetus.

The conference, which is being organised by the JMA, is being attended by specialists from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, the U.S., West Germany, the United Kingdom, Greece, Italy, the Soviet Union, Austria and Holland in addition to Jordan.

A special exhibition of medical equipment and medicines was opened at the Royal Cultural Centre, displaying products from Arab and foreign companies.

Altogether, 51 working papers will be reviewed by the participants in the three-day conference being held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, who deputised for the Queen, delivered the opening address outlining medical achievements in Jordan in general and special services to mothers and children through primary health care centres in particular.

The Kingdom now has a total of 470 primary health care centres and 170 mother and child care centres which contribute towards maintaining good health for the Jordanian society, the minister noted. Thanks to increasing care

and attention given to medical care over the past 30 years, the Kingdom has witnessed a continuous decrease in child mortality rates and longer life expectancy rates, the minister said.

Special attention has been given to gynaecology and obstetrics over the past years both by the private and the public sectors, Malhas pointed out.

The Ministry of Health in Jordan, he said, maintains vaccination programmes for children and mothers as part of the primary health services. The minister referred to the newly established National Medical Institution (NMI) which, he said, now takes charge of hospitals and strives to

Japan helps in setting software centre in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japan is taking steps to help Jordan establish a regional software research, development and training centre to help promote computer work and application in Jordan and the Arab World. The assistance is coming through the Centre for International Cooperation in Computing at the Japanese Ministry of Industry and Trade, according to an earlier agreement between the governments of Jordan and Japan.

Three specialists from the Japanese centre arrived in Amman to carry out the first step which entails exploratory work in preparation for the project, according to Dr. Yousef Nuseir, director of the computer department at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) where the centre is to be established.

Dr. Nuseir told the Jordan

Times that the RSS has undertaken the ground work for the project which will help the Kingdom expand computer services and application.

What the Japanese propose to provide to the centre are equipment and expertise and training of Jordanian personnel, Nuseir noted. The visit by the three specialists will be followed by an appraisal mission later to help finalise an agreement on the project which will be part of Japan's technical assistance programme to the Kingdom.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the team will call at the RSS for a meeting with its President Jawad Al Anani and the Higher Council for Science and Technology Secretary General Dr. Adnan Badrart.

The team is headed by the Japanese centre director who will

hold talks with Dr. Nuseir.

The RSS was one of the first Jordanian institutions to use computers in running its activities and in rendering services to others.

At present, RSS renders technical and consultancy services, conducts studies in the field of computers and contributes to introducing computer technology and applications in institutions in the public and private sectors in Jordan and abroad.

The three-member team called at the RSS and met with RSS President Jawad Al Anani and other officials to discuss future cooperation and the implementation of the software project.

The head of the team told Anani that his country was willing to maintain bilateral cooperation and provide the required assistance to the projected centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jahl Laweibdeh.
- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Wasfi Tal Industrial School, Irbid.
- ★ An exhibition of Jordanian-Soviet stamps at Alia Art Gallery — 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Prof. Dr. Dieter Weiss entitled "Performances and Prospects of Arab Countries in the European Market" at the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce — 5:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ An Italian film entitled "Banana Joe" at Hays Arts Centre — 7:30 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "Bye Bye Birdie" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

OPERA

- ★ A concert of opera hosted by the Musicomediens group presenting two Offenbach operettes, "Il Signor Fagotto" and "L'He de Tulipatan", at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Hear the expert, give the disabled a chance

By Dina Hamarneh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Disability need not give rise to handicap. The environment however, usually gives rise to this handicap.

Narrow public doorways continuously block the entrance for many disabled persons on wheelchairs. More crucial however, are the narrow public awareness that block the vast majority of the disabled from entering society as a whole, and the right to full participation within its framework.

Ignorance, indifference and fear reflect themselves by evolving into attitudes and behaviour. This reflection often leads to the creation of physical, social, and cultural barriers for the disabled.

"Attitudes coloured by ignorance towards a certain topic tend to lapse into a state of intellectual laziness, giving this topic a simplified version and by so resulting in a distorted picture of the reality," says Alfred Montebello, vocational rehabilitation expert, working on a project with the United Nations Developmental Programme here in Jordan.

The fact is, that despite preventive efforts, there will always be a number of people with impair-

ments and disabilities.

Research shows that there are severely handicapped persons with multiple disabilities who have greater difficulty integrating fully in all activities of society, but in fact are few.

"However society should not be misled, or take this as the norm," Montebello said.

"The public doesn't have a clear view of the disabled. Yet it has a stereotype idea of who they are without bothering to really know them," he says. But, he adds, "After all they are human beings with feelings, yes with impairments, but above all they have the desire, ability, and right to live in dignity. They have the right to enjoy a full and satisfactory life in their own way."

The United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development proclaims the necessity of protecting the rights of physically and mentally disadvantaged persons and assuring their welfare and rehabilitation. It guarantees everyone the right to, and opportunity for, useful and productive labour.

"We have to get to know and have some idea of who the disabled are," Montebello said. Because, he added, "at one time or another we will all have to live, share, or participate in various

activities with a disabled individual. This individual may be a friend, relative or colleague."

Montebello noted that people generally view the disabled as unfortunate, usually pitying them and sympathising with them. He added that this is not the correct attitude, for it does nothing for integration or for the disabled's self confidence.

Attitudes of the public towards the disabled are general. More specific however, are the attitudes of the parents. "In some cases parents view the disability of their child as a tragedy," Montebello said. "Because of this so called 'tragedy', parents become over protective, always pitying the child, restricting his/her development and rendering him/her totally dependent on others for the rest of his/her life."

"In other cases parents are so shocked that they refuse to acknowledge the disability," Montebello explains. "This often leads to the rejection of the child, unconsciously at home, or consciously at an expensive boarding school or institution," he added.

"Parents should be realistic and should seek professional advice," Montebello said. He explained that professional measurement of an impairment provides "not" the parent and the

child with a clear picture of existing abilities as well as disabilities.

The United Nations World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons (WPACDP) found experience to show that it is largely the environment which determines the effect of an impairment or a disability on a person's daily life indeed his whole life. WPACDP states that a person is handicapped when he or she is denied the opportunities generally available in the community that are necessary for the fundamental elements of living.

As disabled persons have equal rights, they also have equal obligations. In order to fulfill these obligations however, Montebello explained that the public in general and employers in specific will have to believe in the ability of the disabled. Their ability to acquire a job, succeed, produce, and contribute to the well being of society. He added that living on welfare, handouts or charity is not the answer.

"In fact, in certain situations if placed selectively on jobs that make use of their specific talents, the disabled can be more efficient than the able-bodied," concedes Montebello, "such as the blind and deaf who can concentrate with fewer distractions on routine work."

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AN editorial in Al Ra'i newspaper Wednesday revolves around statements by UNDP representative in Jordan Ali Attiga as published in the local press. The paper quoted Attiga as expressing his optimism over the future of the economic situation in Jordan and the other members of the Arab Cooperation Council. It also referred to Attiga's pledge that the United Nations will be providing economic and financial help to the Kingdom in a bid to help it carry out its development schemes. The paper noted that such statements reflect United Nations views and beliefs that Jordan is going along a sound course towards construction and progress, regardless of the temporary difficult circumstances. Attiga's statement also provides support for the government's recent monetary and financial measures designed to stabilise and boost the national economy, the paper added. It said that the government's endeavours in the economic sector have begun to yield fruit thanks to the wise leadership of the King and the relentless endeavours of the Jordanian people.

Al Dostour daily said in editorial that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has risked splitting his coalition government, and winning the anger and hostility of Europeans and Americans by maintaining his stubbornness and by adhering to his futile policies in the occupied Arab lands. The paper said Shamir's ideas are rejected not only by the Arabs but also by the Americans and the Europeans. The paper referred to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who had said that Shamir ought to come up with new ideas about the Middle East problem when he visits Washington in the coming few days. Moreover, Shamir should heed what British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had said in Rabat, that the United States ought now to exercise pressure on Israel to force it to accept the idea of the international peace conference, the paper noted. It said it remains to be seen whether the United States will exercise such pressure and make Israel listen to reason during Shamir's coming visit to Washington.

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Tragedy requires Arab summit

THE Lebanese tragedy is beyond the stage of issuing appeals. The Arab League's Council of Ministers call on all Lebanese factions to halt the ongoing savage wave of fighting and indiscriminate shelling is certainly helpful but by no means commensurate with the size of the Lebanese situation. Similar appeals were issued by the Arab League's Ministerial Committee of Good Offices and by other countries and groups of countries on many occasions in the past and recently. One prays and hopes that such appeals will bear fruit and stop the bloodletting permanently. But after fifteen years of internecine fighting in Lebanon and 19,800 shells fired on east and west Beirut only in the last ten days, surely the Arab World must know that the Lebanese crisis requires a much more affirmative action.

The last desperate effort by the Arab League's Ministerial Committee to mediate between the various fighting groups in Lebanon, by engaging in a dialogue in Tunis with some of the Lebanese leaders including two former presidents and five prominent former leaders, may only succeed in alleviating the hardships that the Lebanese have been forced to cope with for the last fourteen years if not longer. But the crux of the Lebanese conflict surely requires some Arab action that contains the clout of all the Arab leaders to crack the Lebanese nut once and for all. For that purpose there is simply no alternative to convening an extraordinary Arab summit on the Lebanese situation alone to which all the Lebanese political and military players would be invited. Any such Arab summit would be invited to stay in session till the representatives of the fighting factions emerge from such an Arab summit with crystal clear agreement. The motto of such an Arab summit should be to reject all forms of palliatives or half measures or patronising policies. Rather, the credo of such high level Arab gathering should be to address in straight talk and face to face encounter the hardcore issues that are behind the continuous fighting in Lebanon.

The mandate of an Arab summit on Lebanon must also include mediation, to be followed by arbitration and to culminate in an imposed settlement if necessary. If unanimity within an Arab summit cannot be reached, then the Arab kings and presidents must be prepared to deal with the Lebanese situation on a consensus basis in which case the Arab World's material and political will would be expected to be put in practice.

It is indeed a grave dishonour for the whole Arab civilisation that a decade and half-long domestic armed conflict is allowed till this day to go on unabated. Something is obviously amiss in the Arab approaches hitherto tried in Lebanon. When a medicine or medicines prove to be ineffective, surely time is ripe to prescribe another medicine that is more potent. That is what an Arab summit would be asked to administer.

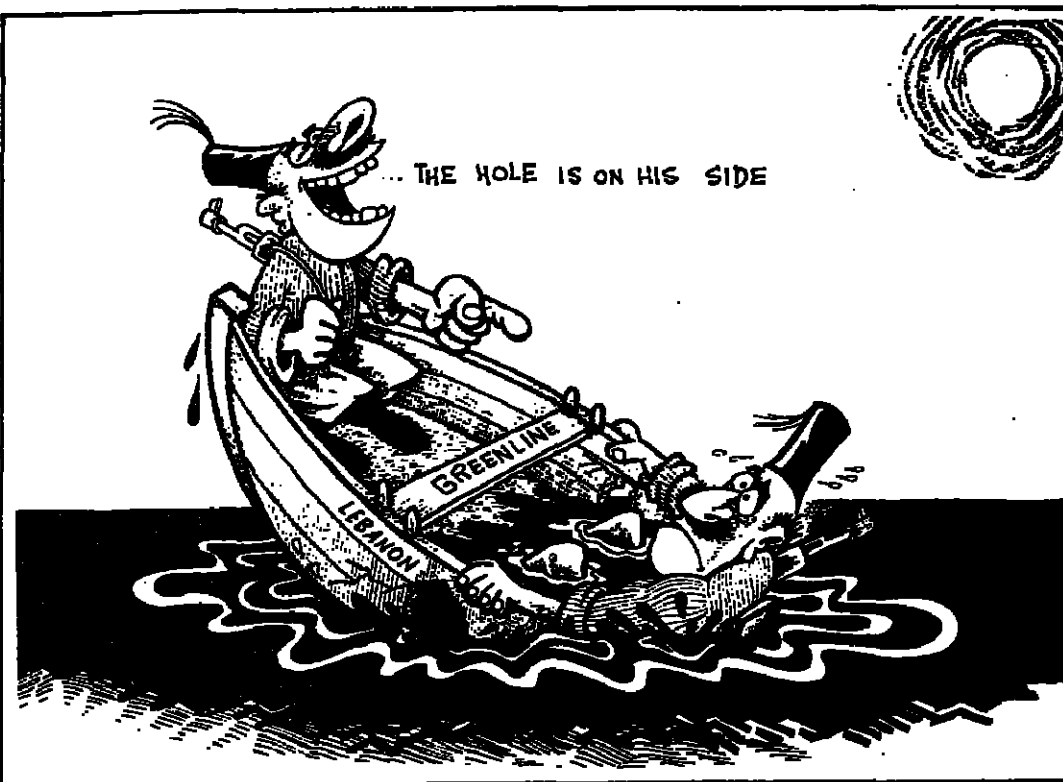
Enough is enough

HARDLY a week passes by without hearing of or reading about a woman being killed by her brother or estranged husband in what has become known as "crimes of honour." This phenomenon of summary execution of many of our Jordanian women at the hands of their relatives has gone too far without any serious effort by society to redress such series of tragedies. What makes this tendency on the part of our males to take the law into their own hands even more tragic, is the fact that most of these women are often innocent of the charges levelled against them.

A mere suspicion of an illicit sexual behaviour is often considered by some as enough to arouse the mindless emotions of our males and their sense of "honour." This is not to suggest that we should condone out-of-wedlock sexual contact. On the contrary, we respect and support the safeguarding of our traditional values. But this phenomenon of summary execution and "kill now, ask later" must be stopped. It is incumbent on our scholars, the media and social leaders to initiate a campaign to educate the people as to where the sensible line must be drawn, in order to protect our females who are constantly slaughtered at the hands of our males without an opportunity to explain or repudiate. In this context, we ask that the necessary amendments be introduced to our penal code in an effort to rectify this situation. Above all, a national effort must be undertaken to educate our citizens on how to address the "honour" issues on a more just basis. Surely there is a better way to check the sexual immorality among our people if in fact this problem exists.

Furthermore, one must note that the murders being committed in the name of honour are in direct conflict with the teachings of Islam, which requires corroboration by eyewitnesses to the act itself before any punishment is carried out against the perpetrator. We have a fundamental problem at hand that could only be solved through a process of education that begins to treat human beings, particularly women, as human beings — who may make mistakes and need not be shot arbitrarily. Men do not have a monopoly on morality. Men must not be allowed to unilaterally define what constitutes moral aberration and then decide the form of punishment as well. They simply cannot be the prosecutor, the judge and the executioner, all at the same time.

Seen against this backdrop, the one-day symposium on women and crime held in Amman Tuesday under the patronage of the minister of social development goes a long way to address the grave problem of crimes committed against women. It is heart-breaking that out of a total of 89,000 crimes committed in the country between 1984 and 1988, 67 per cent of these crimes were committed against women. The effort of the government to deal with such issues is indeed commendable and timely.



Relatives demand justice after report that missile hit plane

By Barry Moody
Reuters

ROME — Did Italy's air force shoot down a civilian airliner in 1980, killing all 81 people on board, and then systematically destroy the evidence?

Or are Italian authorities covering up the responsibility of another power?

Many Italians believe these appear the most plausible explanations for the disaster following a new judicial report saying the airliner was shot down with

an air-to-air missile.

The only other alternative, say angry relatives of the victims, is that Italy's defences are so weak they cannot detect an airliner being shot down by a fighter plane over its territory.

The anger and frustration of the relatives came to the boil after a commission of six crash and explosives experts reported to investigating magistrate Vittorio Bucarelli on March 17 that the airliner was destroyed by a missile.

After nine years of mystery, it was the first official verdict on what exactly caused the crash of a DC-9 of the now defunct domestic carrier Itavia, on the night of June 27, 1980.

Bucarelli has promised the relatives he will complete his inquiry within two months of receiving the report. He is expected soon to question the defence minister at the time, Lelio Lagorio, other senior officials and military officers.

The relatives say those responsible for destroying the plane, which crashed into the sea near Sicily, and those alleged to have hid the evidence, must rapidly be brought to justice.

"We are sick of waiting ... Even if the judge has not yet got enough evidence, to show who fired the missile and why, he has all the elements to establish who hid the truth and manipulated the evidence for so many years," said Alfredo Galasso, one of two lawyers representing the relatives.

He told Reuters: "I had a feeling of great dismay, of great anguish ... A reading of the technical report arouses extraordinary indignation for the silence, the delays, the disinformation, that stopped us knowing the truth for all these years."

"We waited nearly nine years from the tragedy before knowing only one thing with certainty, something which was very clear a long time before ... from the very first inquiries it was absolutely clear that this plane was hit from the outside by an object that obviously could not have been a child's kite."

After the report was delivered, Defence Minister Valerio Zanone ordered an urgent inquiry into the air force.

Zanone has repeatedly denied that Italy's forces could have caused the disaster and he says there is nothing to contradict denials by other NATO countries

or Libya.

Zanone recently also suggested that Italy's radar might not have been able properly to see what was happening in the area.

But the report said surviving, partial radar records showed the profile of a fighter plane near the airliner. The experts were unable to conclude whether it was an aggressor or was being pursued.

Neither were they able to identify the origin of the missile, which exploded close to the front of the DC-9.

There are mysterious gaps in radar records of that night from two military bases at Marsala in Sicily and Licola in southern Italy.

At Marsala, automatic radar recording was turned off for eight minutes during the disaster. The manual plotting log has disappeared. At Licola, Galasso said, a similar log appeared to have been destroyed.

"We must establish the responsibility ... I do not believe Licola and Marsala were unable to record what happened ... We want to identify the whole range of responsibility for this tragedy."

He added: "I can't believe a fact of this type remained hidden inside the air force. The responsible politicians must have known ... otherwise they knew the truth was being kept from them."

Galasso said it was impossible that Italian authorities were unaware of what happened during the tragedy. "If they did not know it means our skies are a free zone, removed from national sovereignty where any kind of catastrophe can happen to civilian planes."

Galasso believes there are no surviving records of who shot down the plane. "Those who knew what happened must decide to talk ... They must be forced to talk."

He thinks the most plausible of the many theories about the accident is that the DC-9 was shot down in error by NATO or U.S. fighters pursuing a Libyan Mig.

Wreckage of such a plane was found in the Sila mountains of southern Italy three weeks after the disaster but doctors disagreed about whether the pilot had died shortly before or around the time of the DC-9 accident.

The new experts' report was based on examination of the DC-9's wreckage, raised from the seabed last year after pressure from President Francesco Cossiga.

Soviet elections delight reformers

By Robert Evans
Reuters

MOSCOW — "My country," said the Soviet Union's best-loved poet Andrei Voznessensky, "after this can never be the same again."

Magazine editor Anatoly Beliyev said: "What we've seen is the beginning of really important changes, and in the direction of genuine political pluralism."

As Moscow television on Monday night revealed to watching millions the news of rebel Communist Boris Yeltsin's crushing election victory, their optimism seemed well-placed.

Even so, as reports poured in from the Baltics and the Ukraine of party and local dignitaries once so sure of their power falling to upstart opponents with minds of their own, there was a sense of the unreal in the air.

After all, this was the state where for almost 70 years — according to official dogma — the party and people were one in monolithic unity and there was no need for choice.

But in Leningrad voters rejected the party's two top leaders, including Kremlin politburo member Yuri Solovoyov.

In Moscow mayor Valery Saikin tumbled to defeat while around the capital outspoken candidates condemning official abuse and incompetence swept home.

In one district a 32-year-old physicist who has argued for a multi-party system crushed the local party chief. In another historian Roy Medvedev, for years officially labelled an anti-Soviet slanderer, came top of the poll.

In Kiev two top aides to the Ukraine's powerful Communist leader Vladimir Shcherbitsky failed to win even though they

had no opposing candidates.

Voters there — as in other old-style "no choice" constituencies — either crossed out their names or simply stayed away from the polls, depriving them of the minimum 50 per cent of the registered electorate they needed.

In the Ukrainian city of Zhitomir, campaigning woman journalist Alla Yaroshinskaya took 90 per cent of the vote despite, or perhaps because of, the bitter opposition to her candidacy from the republic's party.

"Everything is changing before our eyes in this fantastic world," said science fiction writer Igor Mozheiko.

"It seems to me that we've slipped into another dimension and we're seeing the Soviet Union as it might have been," said a young intellectual. "I hope no-one wakes me up."

Voznessensky, like most Russian poets as much a political figure as the politicians, took a sweeping view.

"We in the intelligentsia always saw ourselves as the symbol of democracy and thought that the people weren't ready for it. But the joyful thing about all this is that in many ways it has proved us wrong."

"What has happened shows the strength of the people, that they are not just a crowd but have a developing democratic sense."

Did Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev plan it this way when he cajoled his politburo colleagues into a political reform that broke away from the pattern of decades and provided for multi-candidate elections?

And did he expect the Soviet people to display such a massive commitment to his own "new thinking" in voting for the new-style parliament at the centre of the reform?

Gorbachev, it would seem, could hardly welcome the emergence of his former protégé Yeltsin in the effective role of leader of the opposition in the new legislature, the 2,250-seat congress of people's deputies.

Only a few days ago, the party's central committee published the record of its October 1987 meeting when the top leaders roared bitterly on Yeltsin for calling for faster reform.

The record showed Gorbachev himself was scathing in his dismissal of Yeltsin as a political illiterate and careerist.

But on Sunday, after casting his own vote, the Kremlin leader was philosophical. The main force in his perestroika programme, he told reporters, was the Soviet people.

"And even if not everyone is pleased by the outcome of the elections — well, there is nothing that can be done about it. The master of the country has spoken."

Yeltsin, delighted with his own 89 per cent vote against an opponent backed strongly by the Moscow city party, had no doubt what the result meant.

It would, he said, make it essential for the leadership to decide soon to launch into a more radical version of perestroika economic restructuring, sweeping aside conservative resistance.

For Belyayev, who edits the free-wheeling monthly 20th Century and Peace, the message of the voting was not so different. "We've seen ebbs and flows in the past three or four years — like a tug of war with the rope being pulled in one direction and then the other."

"But now in these last days I have the feeling that we're on the winning team, that the perestroika people are winning out and not the conservatives after all."

Few signs of 'tropical glasnost' in Cuba

By Gilles Trequesser
Reuters

HAVANA — Signs of a "tropical glasnost" are few in Cuba and the upcoming visit of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is unlikely to alter that, diplomats say.

In a country where the state-run media have absolute control over what is printed or broadcast, most Cubans confess great interest, if not admiration, for Gorbachev's "new thinking" and glasnost or openness, the diplomats say.

But Cuban Communist Party hardliners view the changes in the Soviet Union as "deviationist tendencies" away from the pure Marxist-Leninist dogma President Fidel Castro praises and there are no winds of change sweeping over this island-nation.

"The only response so far is a Fidel digging in his heels and a party getting more rigid every day," one Western diplomat said.

"Marxism-Leninism or death," Castro proclaimed in January in what diplomats saw as a clear message that he is not about to follow Gorbachev's example by adopting his own perestroika-

style reform programme.

Gorbachev, whose political reforms led to Sunday's first contested general elections in the Soviet Union for a new-style Soviet legislature, is due here on Sunday for his first visit to Cuba.

The official line here is that the road chosen by Gorbachev does not necessarily apply to non-aligned Cuba. Castro has said his country has no need to copy anybody.

Cuba has certainly looked to Moscow as something of a role model in the 30 years since Castro launched a Socialist revolution here, political analysts say.

"The truth is we copied well what they were doing badly and we did not copy what they were doing well," quipped Eduardo del Llano, editor of the Communist Party central committee theoretical magazine.

Castro, in his latest public remark on the possibility he would enact Soviet-style reforms, joked that adopting perestroika would be like sleeping with another man's wife.

Since April 1986, before perestroika and glasnost became household words, Castro steered

his people "on the new path of 'rectification of errors and negative tendencies' — a slogan, like so many in Cuba, that he coined himself."

Cuban Communist Party and government officials now stress that the ongoing campaign preceded changes in the Kremlin.

There have been timid attempts in the Cuban press to express scepticism about the "rectification" campaign.

"The government wants us to be whistle-blowers not just cheerleaders," said a Cuban journalist for an official newspaper.

But Cuba has no opposition press and, while criticism of negligence, bureaucracy, waste, corruption and other shortcomings has appeared in print, the fundamentals of Cuban society — the all-powerful Communist Party and Castro himself — are never criticised.

"All this has to come under the category of 'constructive criticism,'" the journalist said, in keeping with Castro's famous statement of more than 25 years ago, "anything within the revolution, nothing outside the revolution."

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سكيتا لوصا

Focus on people

An early start

This week Pascal Boulos Karmy tells Focus on people how his education gave him the opportunity to serve the "Arab perspective" in his position as legal advisor to U.N. agencies in several countries.

By Mariam M. Shabin

Pascal Karmy served as a legal advisor to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1949-50 and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), from May 1950 to April 1979, and was stationed in Damascus, Beirut, and Vienna. His work concerned mainly legal activities and legal problems which arose from the implementation of UNRWA projects in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

"What has always helped me in my work when explaining the Arab viewpoint to non-Arabs who work in Middle Eastern related fields is that my education was mostly Western. One disadvantage in working in the U.N. organisation is the frequent incompatibility between staff members of different nationalities. Often incompetent persons are employed simply because their country is a contributor to the U.N., while the latter has to employ the person concerned upon the recommendation of his country."

"In hindsight it is easy for us to say that we should have accepted the (181 partition), U.N. resolution in 1947. But now the Arab states have become much more aware of the actual power they are facing. The Arabs have also shown the world that Israel is the intransigent player on the Middle Eastern chess board. We the Arabs, have learned a lot from the West in the last fifty years. We have learned to speak the language of the West, to understand and communicate in languages not our own and to appreciate cultures not our own. The emphasis that our parents gave us Western oriented education may have been exaggerated in some cases, but has given us the means to deal with the industrialised world."

Despite the Arab diplomatic advances, and the unquestionable services that agencies (specifically UNRWA) have provided to the Arab refugees, it is evident that the superpowers and specifically the United States will must play a key role in the resolution of the Arab dilemma in Palestine.

Mr. Karmy's grandfather, Boulos Karmy, had emigrated to England in 1870 from his hometown in Ain Karem, a suburb of west Jerusalem. Subsequently the whole Karmy family were born and raised in England. It was not until 1914, after the return of his family to Palestine, when Pascal Karmy was born in Ain Karem, that a member of the Karmy family was born in an Arab country. The rest of the Boulos Karmy family remained in England.

"The fact that my family had been early Arab immigrants to a Western country was to have great influence on how I felt about being an Arab. We were living in a colonial era where people still believed in the superiority of one people over another. I was the only member of my family who was born in an Arab country, but was raised by people who had had first hand experience with the colonisers in their home territory. Although my family had not been socially integrated after a 44 year stay in England, my mother spoke English better than she did Arabic. Her influence on me as well as my early schooling at the Cardinal Ferrar College and the St. George school in Jerusalem, gave me an early start in English and French."

Karmy received a degree in Philosophy and Letters from the University of Louvain and then studied law at the University of Liverpool for one year before continuing his law studies at the School of Law in Jerusalem. He finished his studies in 1946 and was called to the bar in 1947. His subsequent work as legal advisor to UNRWA in Damascus, after a brief stay in Salt, kept him close to the Palestine cause.

Mr. Karmy has lived in Jordan since 1979. He worked with Wahib Shaer Management Services Co. for four years. In his capacity as head of the legal department he was actively involved in the publishing of several law books dealing with commercial laws in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, as well as North and South Yemen. In the past Mr. Karmy contributed articles to Al Doustour Arabic daily newspaper, as well as to the weekly Jerusalem Star. He now contributes to the Jordan Times in both the English and French sections. The topics he deals with range from legal issues to fiction stories.

Traffickers challenge Singapore's anti-drug laws

By Jose Katigbak
Reuters

SINGAPORE — As passenger jets begin the descent towards Changi Airport cabin loudspeakers warn of "severe penalties for drug offences in Singapore."

To make sure the message gets across, landing cards that visitors must fill out warn in bold red letters: "Death for drug traffickers under Singapore law."

But ironically the South East Asian country's reputation for having some of the world's toughest anti-drug laws is tempting traffickers to use this as a transit point on their way to Europe.

Poh Geok Ek, director of the Central Narcotics Bureau, said traffickers knew about the harsh penalties but still took the risk of breaking their journey here in the hope that authorities abroad would be less strict in checking passengers arriving from Singapore.

Singapore's anti-drug laws stipulate a mandatory death sentence on conviction for trafficking in more than 15 grammes of heroin and more than 30 grammes of morphine.

Acting Health Minister Yeo Cheow Tong said drug activities increased last year in many countries, including Singapore, because of bigger supplies from South East Asia's infamous "Golden Triangle" area linking Thailand, Burma and Laos.

"To deter the entry of so-called 'Anti-traffickers,'

those dealing in relatively small quantities of drugs, the government last year tightened security checks at the causeway linking Singapore to the Malaysian state of Johore Baru and installed urine testing machines at all entry points into the city state.

Tests

The test can detect the use of heroin, morphine, opium, cocaine and cannabis and are carried out on foreigners and Singaporeans suspected of drug use or showing signs of nervousness or agitation.

Authorities have also tightened the issuing of passports to Singaporeans aged 20 to 30 because most drug addicts are from this age group.

Yeo told a public rally that 5,451 addicts were arrested in Singapore last year, 30 per cent more than in 1987. "Of these, 23 per cent were new addicts who had no previous drug records," he said.

But Yeo said the problem of drug abuse in Singapore was under control.

Singapore introduced capital punishment for drug trafficking in 1975 and since then 20 people, including 11 foreigners, have been hanged, the last in January, 1986. Another 16 have been sentenced to death and are in jail pending appeal.

The penalty for trafficking in more than six kilograms of opium is 20 to 30 years in jail and 15 strokes of the cane.

The German-Jordanian Friendship Society

Where the West meets the East

By Suhair M. Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Friendship societies have always played an important role in creating wider bridges for understanding between nations while staying clear of political dilemmas.

After World War II the Federal Republic of Germany started mending fences with countries around the world through friendship societies. Thus the German Friendship Society, is an organisation with a long history of continuous attempts to promote understanding between people on all levels.

In 1963, while visiting Jordan, Kurt Uihlein, Jordan's Honorary Consul in Germany at the time, proposed the idea of establishing a friendship society to His Majesty King Hussein. Thus with no political or economical connotations, a German-Jordanian friendship society was established. "We began modestly," said Karl Schmitt-Korte, head of the cultural department of the society's chapter in Frankfurt, W. Germany.

As it turned out the friendship society would lend a helping hand to Jordan. After the 1967 war, the society collected 700,000 tonnes of clothing, pharmaceutical products and a complete cleaning mobile, altogether worth DM 1 million.

As the years passed, the scope and the task of the society became clearer: Arabs and Westerners were still wary of each other and wracked by mutual mistrust. This led to the establishment of a cultural department in 1973 with Schmitt-Korte at its head.

He explained how he developed an interest in Jordan. "I

was born in Trier, the oldest German town, the seat of the Roman Emperor Constantine. I grew up with history and antiquities, so quite naturally, I developed an interest in archaeology."

"In 1961 I visited the south of Jordan and fell in love with Petra. Then I became interested in the Roman period, especially the history of the Nabateans. A field I was particularly interested in was pottery and coins of that era, as well as learning to read Nabatean inscriptions," Schmitt-Korte said.

"From frequent contacts with the department of antiquities, which was the basis of our cultural work in the society, we established a ten-year programme, from 1976-1986."

The fruit of these consultations were exhibitions on the Nabateans held in a number of German cities (Hanover, Frankfurt, Bonn, Krefeld, Trier and Hamburg). These exhibitions broke new ground in coordination often involving no less than five distinct bodies — local museums in Germany, the Ministry of Tourism in Jordan, the German Embassy in Jordan and the Embassy of Jordan in Germany. It was the friendship society that paved the way for such arrangements.

The response was positive and great. The exhibitions were attended by more than 100,000 visitors and television and press coverage was extensive. Ultimately, the Nabatean exhibition reached a German public of over one million people.

I heard in the Ministry of Tourism, during my last stay in Jordan, that German tourists were asking for Petra first. The Nabatean exhibitions were clear-

ly a corner stone in our German-Jordanian friendship," he said.

Goethe factor

Schmitt-Korte was keen to emphasise what he saw as the neglected virtues of the Goethe Institute. "In the field of German-Jordanian cooperation, special mention must be made to the Goethe Institute, the leading cultural representative of Germany in Jordan. Unfortunately, the degree and extent of services offered by this institute is greatly under-rated, both in Germany and in Jordan," he said.

Schmitt-Korte attributed this to the absence of systematic documentation of the society's achievements, and to the language barrier, although the latter has undoubtedly lessened over the past 20 years.

"When I was here for two weeks in 1961, I met only one person who could speak German. Even today, the language barrier still exists, despite the fact that there has been an increase in the number of Jordanian students who have gained their Ph.Ds in German universities," he said. The solution? "Another Goethe Institute in Irbid and the wider provision of language teaching facilities," Schmitt-Korte proposes.

Student exchange programmes between German and Jordanian colleges ranks high in the society's priorities. Others are organising public lectures, conferences and press interviews with Germans and Jordanians who can increase interest in and knowledge of each others country.

Schmitt-Korte was full of praise for the diplomats involved. "We are very lucky to have the German Ambassador in Jordan



German Chancellor Kohl and his wife during a visit to Petra in October 1983.



Karl Schmitt-Korte

His Excellency Dr. Herwig Barfels, an ardent promoter of cultural contexts and the driving spirit behind the Jordanian exhibition in Cologne in 1987, which was opened by Her Majesty Queen Noor," he said.

On display were a wide range of Jordanian antiquities and a number of Jordanian and Palestinian dresses which form the private collection of Mrs. Widad Kavar. Their simple beauty made a lasting impression on the German public.

East-West understanding

Schmitt-Korte is currently in Amman to study a novel project, the history of East-West understanding. "The purpose of my current visit to Jordan is to explore the possibilities of an exhibition on the development of Oriental and Islamic studies in Germany throughout the past 500 years."

This early chapter in Arabic studies, in contrast to the exhaustively studied period of conflicts,

the Crusades, is known neither to the German nor the Jordanian public. One striking example is the portrait of Sebastian Münster, one of the early masters of Oriental studies, which decorates the DM 100 bank note, and yet enjoys almost total anonymity. "Not even intellectuals are aware of it," Schmitt-Korte complained.

"When this exhibition can be realised and whether it can be shown in both Germany and Jordan remains to be seen," Concord has never been as interesting as conflict.

In recent years I have concentrated on studying the Nabateans scientifically and I am visiting Petra to see the most recent progress on archaeological work," he said.

Another project of the society is a comprehensive book on the Nabateans, which will not only focus on Petra but will describe this unique culture as a whole. Although preparations for this work have already started, finan-

cial problems have still to be overcome.

Schmitt-Korte is reluctant to define the functions of the society as being solely academic. "There is an emphasis on the cultural aspects of the German-Jordanian Friendship Society which should not be overlooked, the scope of our work is much wider," he said.

With 800 members, the German-Jordanian Society is considered one of the ten largest German-foreign societies. All functions of the society are honorary, (without payment and without government support), so most of the effort rests on personal enthusiasm and some degree of improvisation.

Jordan's friendship ambassador is undoubtedly His Majesty King Hussein, he is very popular with the German public and German politicians.

"Because we keep out of politics, we are confident that the friendship as a basis for our society will continue in the future," Schmitt-Korte concluded.

The re-creation of Madonna

By Stephen Holden

IN "Like a Prayer," the music-video and title song of an album that represents Madonna's convincing bid for recognition as a serious rock artist, the 30-year-old star has never looked more beautiful or sung with more feeling. The songs, which deal directly and very emotionally with her failed marriage to the actor Sean Penn, her family, and her Catholic girlhood, transcend the brassy dance-pop of her three previous records to reveal Madonna as a vulnerable human being.

In the video she kisses the feet of the statue of a black saint who steps out of a cage to become her flesh-and-blood lover. As they embrace in a church pew, a black gospel chorus swoops and billows behind her sobbing vocal. Madonna is down on her knees one moment and falling out of the sky the next. With its images of interracial love, religious ecstasy, stigmata and burning crosses carried forward by lush Caribbean-flavoured pop-gospel music, "Like a Prayer" surpasses Madonna's earlier music videos in its heady swirl of sacred and profane images. It is titillating, heart-tugging and funny all at once.

Madonna, speaking by telephone from Los Angeles two weeks ago, shrugged off the controversy surrounding the video, which has been denounced as offensive by the American Family Association and has led Pepsi-Cola, which paid her more than \$5 million to use the song in a TV commercial, to ask that it be withdrawn from MTV. The company's request was denied.

"Art should be controversial, and that's all there is to it," Madonna declared, reiterating the philosophy behind many of her videos.

Since becoming an international star just over four years ago, Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone from Detroit has shown a genius for stirring up just enough controversy to advance her career without tipping the balance of public opinion against her. Indeed, the seeds of controversy are embodied in her very name. That name, she said, has always made her feel special.

Pictures of Madonna, in a photogenic swoon with eyes half closed, have become as ubiquitous as the faces of Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe and the Beatles. But Madonna — far

more than the idols of the 50's and 60's — has exercised an impresario's shrewd managerial control over her image. Steeped in pop-culture iconography, she has manipulated the persona of the good-bad girl in music videos, concerts and endless photographs in a way that has made her self-invention a kind of ongoing performance, and has made her one of the 10 highest-paid entertainers of the late 1980's, having earned, according to Forbes magazine, more than \$20 million in each of the last three years.

"What I do is total commercialism, but it's also art," said Madonna. "I like the challenge of doing both, of somehow making art that is accessible and making commerce something artistic."

"I think I have a very healthy point of view about myself," she said.

Having virtually invented herself in the downtown New York club world of the late 70's and early 80's, Madonna must be well aware that the kind of teen-age

adulation she attained with "Like a Virgin," her first No. 1 hit, which led hordes of adolescent girls to dress like her, is stardom of the most perishable sort. Her challenge has been to find a way of entering the grown-up show business mainstream while still remaining something of a kid in the eyes of her fans. It has been a race against time, but with "Like a Prayer," which demonstrates such impressive musical growth, she appears to have won, at least in the world of pop music.

Miscalculation

In nonmusical areas, however, Madonna has often miscalculated. After making an initially bright impression in the movies — in "Desperately Seeking Susan," playing a version of her downtown New York self — Madonna floundered in the wooden "Shanghai Surprise" and the unbearably shrill "Who's That Girl?" On Broadway, however, her portrayal of a

scheming Hollywood secretary in the Lincoln Center production of David Mamet's "Speed-the-Plow" revealed, the words of Frank Rich of The Times, a talent for "intelligent, scrupulously disciplined comic acting." Her performance in the play suggested that she would be far better suited to icy femmes fatales than noisy kooks. Much is riding on her portrayal of Breathless Mahoney, the nightclub singer in Warren Beatty's "Dick Tracy," which is now being filmed in Los Angeles. In the movie, she will sing three new songs by Stephen Sondheim.

The new album is ultimately more important to Madonna's future than any acting role, and it should lay to rest any lingering doubts about her musical talent. It teams with 60's and early 70's echoes — of the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, and Sly and the Family Stone — all pumped up with a brash, if occasionally klutzy, 80's sense of showmanship. "The theme of Catholicism

runs rampant through my album," Madonna said. "It's me struggling with the mystery and magic that surrounds it. My own Catholicism is in constant upheaval. When I left home at 17 and went to New York, which is the city with the most sinners, I renounced the traditional meaning of Catholicism in terms of how I would live my life. But I never stopped feeling the guilt and shame that are ingrained in you if you are brought up Catholic."

The album is dedicated to the singer's mother, a devout woman who died when her daughter was 7. Its songs, she said, intertwine her search for faith with her search for her mother.

The album's most unsettling song, "Till Death Do Us Part," is an anxious jumpy ballad that describes a marriage wracked with drinking, violent quarrels and a possessive, self-hating husband. Its ending finds the couple locked by their unbreakable marriage vows into a miserable cul-de-



From noisy kook to icy femme fatale?

sac. That's what might have happened to her, Madonna said, had she and Sean Penn followed Roman Catholic church doctrine and not filed for divorce as they did in January.

"Love Song," a smoldering duet with Prince that the two created by sending the tape back and forth through the mail and adding bits and pieces, is a howling come-hither duet. And "Keep It Together" resurrects the edgy pop-funk style and hippie optimism of Sly and Family Stone's "Everyday People."

If the album has one song in which Madonna expresses a 30-year-old's view of life unshadowed by rebellion and lingering lapsed Catholicism, it is "Express Yourself," in which she repudiates the philosophy of "Material Girl" and advises women not to settle for a less-than-wonderful relationship. "You don't need diamond rings or 18 carat gold/Fancy cars that go very fast you know they never last," she proclaims.

"The message of the song is that people should always say what it is they want," Madonna said. "The reason relationships don't work is because they are afraid. That's been my problem in all my relationships. I'm sure people see me as an outspoken person, and for the most part, if I want something I ask for it. But sometimes you feel that if you ask for too much or ask for the wrong thing from someone you care about that that person won't like you. And so you censor yourself. I've been guilty of that in every meaningful relationship I've ever had. The time I learn how not to edit myself will be the time I consider myself a complete adult." — The New York Times.



Madonna and Sean Penn



Material girl turns missionary



Madonna keeps time with one of her dance partners during her stage act at London's Wembley Stadium.



A frame from her current controversial video — She has a genius for stirring up just enough controversy.

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Hachimi Azza exhibits a great sense of balance and harmony

Gestures of benevolence

By Nelly Lama
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian art lovers have enjoyed the delectation of a number of art works that boast a great sense of balance, a sensitive use of colour and an accomplished rendering of a very technical and difficult lithographic technique, the 'Mezzo tint' better known as 'Maniere Noire'.

The artist, Hachimi Azza, a Moroccan, was an artist since he remembers. "When others played football, I played with pencil and paper; I drew." He started his formal art education in the School of Fine Arts in Tetouan, Morocco in 1965. In 1969, he joined the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Brussels where he studied painting, sculpture and drawing. On graduating he felt a deep need for more technical knowhow, so he went on in 1972 to the Superior School of Architecture and Visual Art in Brussels where he studied all kinds of graphic printing techniques, dry point, linoleum, etching, woodcuts, etc. "At the end of the course the student would have tried his hand at everything and acquired the feel for one specific mode that suits him best, mine is the mezzo-tint."

With this background, Hachimi was now to explore his private world. He wanted to try out all the materials, to get into all the adventures of art. At University, he had learned to make perfect reproductions of the works of the masters; he had covered anatomy, and technique. He explains: "When we are on our own, the battle is what we do with that which we studied. The good professor promotes the imagination of his student and not only his sense of aesthetics and technique." The 'imagination' of Hachimi is vast. His lithographs represent a surrealistic compilation of objects; objects that often have no relation to one another and that do not make sense. It is as Reverdy explains it in his article in North-South "the bringing together of two separate realities. The more the relation of these two realities is distant, the stronger will be the image."

The first lithograph represents the smiling "Mona Lisa" of Leonardo Da Vinci with the background landscape, compressed in a pressure jar, a paint tube with paint oozing out of it lies beside it. (What have they not done to the poor Gioconda?).

Another shows the self-portrait of Caravaggio compressed within a baby food jar with an apple standing on the lid.

The painter explains: "To me, all art works are objects. I cut out a photograph of a painting, or a card or a torn paper bag or a vegetable and I leave them lying around. They start to be part of my awareness and when the time is ripe, I fit sketches of them into my compositions."

About the Gioconda he explains, "She represents the history of art in the world. I have captured that civilisation and locked it up and included it as an 'object' in a composition."

This demystification of classical art is an ongoing trend in Europe. It might sound grotesque to some, yet when one perceives the way Hachimi Azza produces perfect balance, on a dark background, of objects great and small, one can sense the touch of a master.

He uses Boudelle's "Archer" with great tension in the muscles, one foot standing on a vegetable, the other anchored on an ancient column. Ancient? Maybe not, for after all, the column is covered with blue diagonal stripes that make it look more like a pole of a merry-go-round. The archer has no head, but his muscles look alive. This duality of life and death, of old and new is prevalent in all his paintings.

Hachimi exhibits a sense of humour when his Sphinx adopts genuine human features and sits beside a red apple and a leaf. The duality again. Good perspective is achieved by the overlapping of these forms and by the converging lines of the ground.

Watermelons and Japanese vases

A still life of a watermelon (unbelievably realistic), a Japanese vase and a peach stand in single file. This reminds us of the still lifes of the Spanish Renaissance artist, Zurbarán.

In "Homage to Magritte" he repaints the master's 1948 painting "Memory" with the same head of a Greek sculpture, the same window sill, notch included, the same cloudy sky. The leaf on the sill is, in this case, falling out beyond the edge of the painting and a pear replaces the ball that Magritte portrays among the other objects. (The ball is used in another painting along with Pegasus and a clock and pendulum.) The whole painting is set on a black background and looks as if the canvas on which it was painted was folded, white creases appear on it.

The greatness of this work lies in understanding the technique of the 'mezzo tint'. A copper plate

is fully indented with a wedge-form blade, the edge of which is dented (a berceuse). When the whole surface is rough (it could take three days' preparation) the shapes are drawn on in pencil and, with the use of a burnisher, the artist starts to work negatively, removing the dents where he wants lighter shades and going into the depth of the copper plate where he wants white. Once this process is over, he prepares two other plates, of equal dimensions, for the rendering of different colours. Now the printing process takes place. The paper is placed within the press. A mark is placed where the copper plate will sit so that they would fall in line. This is called registration. Filled with ink, the plates are sequentially deposited on the paper and pressed, starting with light colours and ending with the black and white version. The first proofs are called artist's proofs. He decides on one final result and tries to reproduce it faithfully in his other prints. In Europe today, artists give their copper plates to a professional lithographer who prints them. Hachimi does his own printing.

We find "the three graces" of Botticelli in a dark enclosure within a torn paper bag. Grace is apparent in the ultimate realism with which he renders the bag. The familiarity of the object makes it as timeless as the repeated representation of the three graces within history. The three nudes here are striped in blue and pink in an attempt to do away with their historical value.

His "Song of the Poet" shows Lucas Cranach's "Eve" standing unaware of the green serpent around her neck. This and the green curtain behind pick up the

red of her lips and nipples. Cranach, who lived during the Reformation, meant his work to be moralising; the flesh versus death and the permanence of the soul. Hachimi claims that no such thing is insinuated in his work, unless it happened subconsciously.

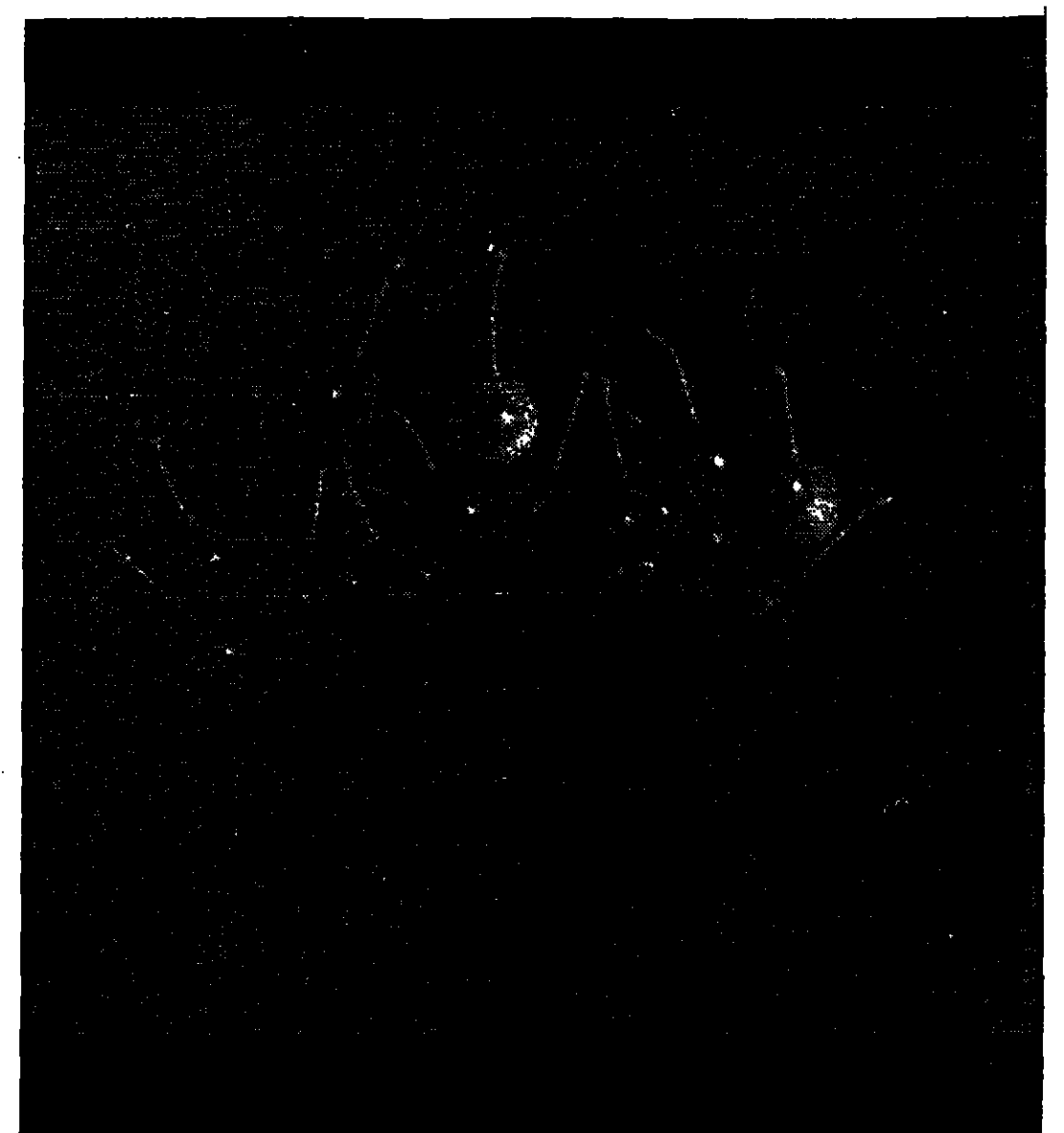
Colour and balance

Next Hachimi offers a collection of transparent objects, bottles, glasses etc. broken at the centre allowing the objects within to show; a shade darker within the glass, quite brighter without it. Colour plays an important part in the balance of the painting. He uses motifs such as playing marbles; he renders their transparency and the shadow cast by their volume. He also paints cherries for their spherical form and their stems that acquire a varied thrust into all directions; this he uses to make his compositions more exciting. He uses the different colours acquired by the cherries, green, red and mauve to produce alternating rhythms, harmonies, contrasts. His great mastery of such elements is best seen in "Pyramid" where a small striped pyramid stands on the base, above it a cluster of mauve cherries floats in space and above that a single red cherry with an intense green leaf cut in half just far enough to handle the question of balance impeccably. A strong vertical line could be envisioned at the centre and the whole seems to be symmetrical where, in fact, it is not. Such a sense of balance belongs only to one who has mastered his trade through years of hard practice.

A modest man, Hachimi Azza, only boasts of his discipline and hard work "I have imposed on myself a harsh discipline, I work

hard, I work seriously."

Hachimi Azza offers the proceeds of his exhibition to Jordanian artists, for, seeing that he has arrived, he feels that his role is to help other reach the required heights of what is

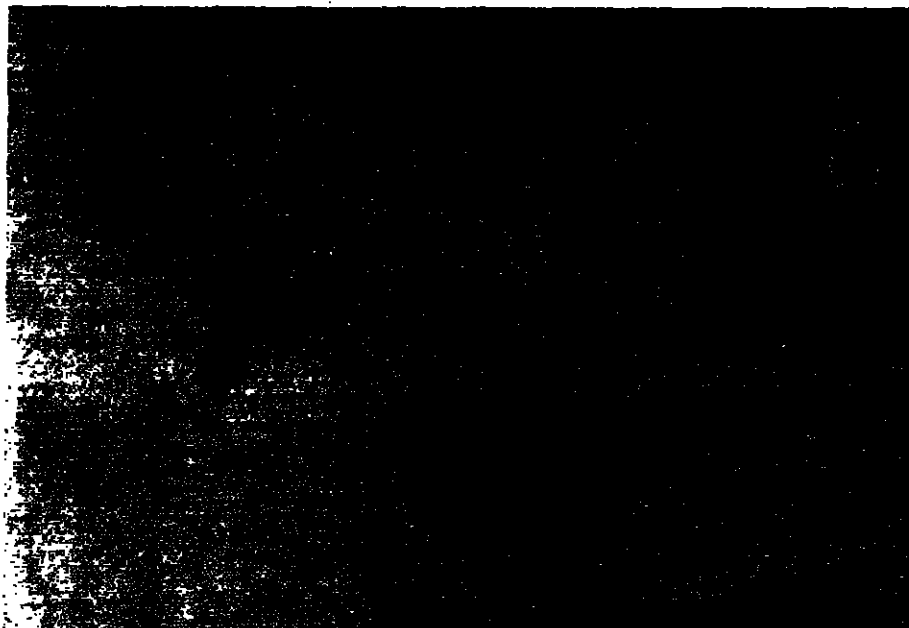


An art work by Hachimi Azza

worthy of being called "Fine Art." His advice to Jordanian artists: "Work seriously, work hard. Some artists want to skip the stages of development and want to reach the heights in one leap, this is impossible. Lots of

hard work and gradual education is the only way. The yeast is there, let the bread grow before you bake!"

The National Gallery was complimented for having made such a good choice...again.



Paving dividends throughout medicine



Gambling on treatment

Canada AIDS patients to use experimental drugs

By Russell Blinch
Reuters

OTTAWA — Terminally ill patients in Canada are being allowed access to the latest experimental drugs, a move AIDS groups are hailing as a major step forward.

Canada's department of health and welfare sent out letters last month to doctors across the country outlining an emergency programme allowing use of yet-to-be-approved drugs for sufferers of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and other life-threatening diseases.

"We are committed to facilitating access to experimental drugs for patients in the treatment of

AIDS," said Dr. Sabih Khan, scientific adviser in the federal bureau of prescription drugs.

The programme, which is attracting interest in the United States, was actually established several years ago. Some federal health officials, however, were apparently unaware of it and were blocking access to new drugs that were still several years away from final approval.

"Things needed to be straightened out and they were... it's a major step forward," Jeffrey Bratt, president of the Canadian AIDS Society, told reporters.

Bratt said there are a range of experimental drugs that AIDS patients would like to use, including aerosol pentamidine, which is

believed to prevent sufferers from catching pneumonia.

There are an estimated 2,400 AIDS cases in this country of 26 million. Another 30,000 to 40,000 people are believed to be carrying the virus, which attacks the body's ability to fight off disease.

Emergency programme

Under Canada's emergency drug programme a doctor must first seek permission from the government to use an experimental treatment on a critically-ill patient.

Federal health officials will approve a drug's use if it is felt the doctor knows how to administer the drug and is aware of its

capabilities. The government will monitor the effects of the drug on the patient.

The doctor must find a manufacturer willing to sell the drug, which federal officials admit could be a problem. They said pharmaceutical companies might be unwilling to keep large stocks of experimental drugs on hand, especially in the early testing stages.

There is also concern that AIDS patients in the United States might try to take advantage of Canada's liberal drug programme to gain access to promising treatments.

U.S. authorities recently decided to allow individual Americans to import for their own use

drugs which are legal in other countries but not yet approved in the United States.

Canadian officials believe requests for drugs from U.S. patients could severely strain the system and deplete existing supplies.

"This will be a problem. This is something we will have to contend with," said the government's Kahn.

At the Canadian AIDS society Bratt said he was disturbed that American patients would have to look to Canada for help.

"It is unfortunate that citizens of one country would have to look to the compassion of another country to get treatment," he said.

A woman of science is given her due

By Walter Sanchez
Reuters

NAZCA, Peru — Portraits of Maria Reiche adorn homes and shops in this desert town where she came to study giant ancient drawings etched into the Peruvian desert.

Musicians serenade her with songs about her lonely efforts to decipher the famous Nazca lines, and her birthday is a local holiday celebrated with dances.

But it was not always so. Reiche remembers how children fled from her and townspeople shunned her when she returned after weeks spent alone in the desert, sweeping rocks and sand from the huge drawings which have intrigued archaeologists for decades.

"Once I walked into the market and someone behind me said, 'she's a witch.' I remember once a whole crowd of children ran away," Reiche said.

Now 85, Reiche suffers from Parkinson's Disease and requires assistance to walk. Since she became blind last year she was spent her days as guest of a state-owned hotel in Nazca, with her physician sister, Renata, and a cat called Merlo.

But she has not finished her study of the etchings, which sprawl for as much as 100 yards across the desert floor and which can be seen most clearly from the air. She believes they were a vast astronomical calendar.

The 30 giant figures, carved

into the clay soil by Nazca Indians about 2,000 years ago, have become a huge tourist attraction, second only to Peru's ancient city of Machu Picchu.

As well as parallels and geometric figures, there are drawings of creatures including a spider, a hummingbird, a killer whale and a monkey.

Spanish colonisers thought the lines were roads, later archaeologists have speculated that they were irrigation ditches, running tracks or weaving patterns.

She used rakes and brooms to uncover the huge designs.

Often she slept under the stars and was once trapped in a sandstorm for three days.

Another theory suggests the ancient Indians used to fly in hot air balloons and the drawings were launch areas.

Yet another theory is that aliens once landed in ancient Peru, and the lines were "runways," an invitation to the extraterrestrials to return.

Reiche's hypothesis is that the Nazca Indians used the figures to plot the stars and determine the time for planting, harvesting and religious ceremonies.

She still hopes to prove that the lines served as a huge ancient astrological calendar, and has chosen a successor, 49-year-old Phyllis Pituga, senior astronomer at Chicago's Adler planetarium, to continue her work.

The Peruvian press has dubbed Pituga the "new guardian angel" of the Nazca lines.

57 years ago

Reiche sailed to Peru from her native West Germany 57 years ago, to work as a governess in the Andean City of Cuzco shortly after receiving a mathematics degree at Hamburg University.

She first learned of the lines while working as a translator for Paul Kosok, a scholar studying the long-neglected lines.

After viewing them from the air, Kosok became convinced they were what he called "the largest astronomy book in the world."

For years Reiche lived alone in a one-room adobe house in the desert, walking the sand by day and poring over her astronomical calculations by the light of a kerosene lantern by night. She used rakes and brooms to uncover the huge designs.

Often she slept under the stars and was once trapped in a sandstorm for three days.

Now a Peruvian attendant reads to her, on topics ranging from glaziers to Marie Curie, a heroine of Reiche's, who was also ostracised in the early years of her research.

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OPEC ministers perceive oil prices stabilising at present

VIENNA (R) — OPEC apparently does not expect oil prices to go much higher, at least for now, after their surge in recent weeks.

Uncertainties about the strength of petroleum demand in the United States, Europe and particularly Asia beset oil ministers assembled for a session of the eight-nation OPEC market monitoring committee.

Even as they gathered for Wednesday's talks, futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange dropped to around \$20 a barrel for West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the U.S. benchmark crude oil, after 17-month highs above \$20.50 Monday.

"We should be very cautious in perceiving present market behaviour," said Indonesia's minister, Ginting Kartasasmita.

Also questioned on prices, Iraq's Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said: "No, I don't expect that they will continue to go up in

the way they have been going in the last few days."

Ecuador's Diego Tamariz explained: "You do have temporary situations which have implied a reduction in production such as the Alaskan oil spill and the problems in the North Sea."

Besides the temporary disruption of some U.S. oil production from Alaska, after the Exxon Valdez offshore spillage, British North Sea output has been cut by a series of accidents. This oil will soon flow onto the market again.

Still, OPEC can congratulate itself on having curbed excess supply — by means of a pact binding its 13 members to observe production quotas for the first half of 1989 — to the extent that prices are unlikely to dip far from current levels, industry executives said.

The output restraint by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), along with strong demand, has driven prices up from around \$12 a barrel for WTI last autumn.

The only cloud on OPEC's horizon now is that strong demand could soon have some members at odds again over production quotas since it may make possible a rise in the group's self-imposed output ceiling.

OPEC's perennial problem is that, whenever demand rises, members dispute who should be allowed to sell more.

The OPEC president, Riikwan Lukman of Nigeria, now thinks that most members' output is down close to their individual ceilings. He declined to comment on reports of overproduction by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Kuwait has now indicated it favours raising the overall OPEC

ceiling at mid-year to 20 million barrels from 18.5 million now, with a big part of the increase in allowable sales going to itself and the UAE.

Both say their quotas are unfairly low, given their huge oil reserves. But delegates said other nations like Venezuela, deep in debt and burdened by big populations, may disagree.

Delegates also say it will be crucial for OPEC to get estimates of future demand right.

According to U.S. industry leaders, American demand for gasoline will still be growing for the rest of this year, but a rise of up to 1½ per cent will be below an average around three per cent since crude oil prices tumbled in 1986.

Japan's economy, however, is booming. Japanese industry's use of energy rose a record 8.3 per cent last year. Oil companies also report surging demand in Taiwan and South Korea.

'U.S. Treasury faces nine nightmares'

WASHINGTON (R) — Fresh doubts over the new U.S. proposals for debt reduction were voiced Tuesday, with two experts warning that Washington is courting disaster unless it implements the plan quickly.

Richard Feinberg of the Washington-based Overseas Development Council (ODC) listed "nine nightmares for the U.S. Treasury," ranging from delays in making deals as debtors and creditors await details of the new policy, to unilateral debt service reduction by countries that do not qualify for relief.

In Tokyo Yoh Kurosawa, deputy president of the Industrial Bank of Japan, said delaying the plan could spell disaster because debtor nations will otherwise remain reluctant to pay interest to commercial banks.

"If I were a Brazilian, I wouldn't pay," Kurosawa told a press luncheon.

Details of the proposal, which was outlined by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on March 10, will be discussed when finance ministers gather here at the weekend for the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Kurosawa said he understood the first countries to benefit from the ideas would be Mexico, Venezuela and the Philippines.

He estimated that \$20 billion to \$30 billion would be needed to implement the Brady proposals, which envisage the use of IMF and World Bank money to back payments on the remaining debt.

The U.S. Treasury, which anticipates cuts of 20 per cent in debt and debt service over three years, thinks the lending agencies will have to put up \$20-\$25 billion.

But Feinberg of the ODC, a private research group, told reporters the bill could be about

\$10 billion higher.

Noting that the cash drain from Latin America has averaged \$25 billion a year in the past three years, Feinberg said policy-makers should aim to reduce that net resource transfer by \$20 billion a year in order to stimulate growth and investment in the region.

Multilateral lending agencies, such as the World Bank, IMF and Inter-American Development Bank, might provide \$8 billion and commercial banks the rest.

If they did not want to lend new money they could cut by 40 per cent the \$280 billion they hold in medium- and long-term Latin debt. This would save about \$11 billion a year in debt service assuming a 10 per cent interest rate, Feinberg said.

The \$170 billion of principal that would remain after a 40 per cent debt reduction could be collateralised with 30-year zero-coupon treasury bonds, which sell

at a deep discount because they pay no interest until maturity, at a cost of \$11-\$12 billion, Feinberg estimated.

A partial guarantee of interest for two years might cost the IMF and World Bank an extra \$20 billion or so, raising the total cost to the lending agencies to \$30-\$35 billion, he said.

Feinberg hailed the Brady proposals for creating a new atmosphere and a new attitude but warned that debtors and creditors may try to manipulate the secondary market for Third World debt to achieve the prices that suit them.

Another nightmare, he said, would be if banks press creditor governments and the international lending agencies for guarantees, thereby "threatening to defeat Brady's pledge to minimise the transfer of risk to the public sector."

Despite being world's highest paid

Japanese prepare for tough wage fight

TOKYO (AP) — As they approach annual wage negotiations, Japanese workers are not impressed by arguments they already are the world's highest paid.

The country's biggest labour organisation is demanding average raises of seven per cent, saying Japan's high prices leave workers behind in real purchasing power.

"Japanese workers are not paid enough to match the country's economic growth," Kajiyama Toshimichi Kajiyama, chairman of the 5.6-million member trade union confederation, recently told reporters.

Employers counter that higher wages would hurt Japan's ability to compete overseas. They say the answer is for the country to find a way to reduce prices.

Japanese companies and their unions do their bargaining each April in what is known as the "spring labour offensive." This year's began with a rally by about 10,000 workers last Saturday (March 25) in a Tokyo park.

Strikes tend to be short, intended mainly as demonstrations. The labour ministry said that of 1,347 strikes last year, involving 430,000 workers, only 496, with 75,000 workers, lasted more than a half-day.

The forthcoming negotiations follow a year in which consumer prices rose 0.7 per cent, compared with 0.1 per cent in 1987, and unemployment, at 2.5 per cent, was the lowest since 1983.

Although Japan counts some people as employed who would not be counted in other nations, some industries have reported labour shortages.

The Bank of Japan says the average profits of 648 major Japanese enterprises rose by 23 per cent last year.

Kajiyama claims that good raises actually will help businesses.

"A higher scale of wages will help expand Japan's domestic demand and improve the standard and quality of life in Japan in keeping with its new economic status as the country with the highest (per capita) income," Kajiyama recently told reporters.

He added, however, that the Japanese worker's real purchasing power is only 60 per cent of the average American's or 70 per cent of the average West German's.

An international study released last October listed average Japanese income in 1987 at \$23,022, followed by \$21,022 in West Germany, \$18,163 in the United States and \$17,657 in France.

But the study listed real purchasing power at \$9,009 in the United States, \$7,783 in West Germany and \$7,302 in Japan, where high food and housing costs offset high wages.

Raises hit a 22-year low of 3.6 per cent in 1987 as Japanese companies battled the effects of the higher yen, which made their products more expensive and less competitive overseas. The high-yen problem since has been overcome, in some cases by streamlining of basic industries.

Last April, Japanese companies granted an average 4.4 per cent raise, bringing the average wage to about 249,000 yen (\$1,915) a month, excluding overtime and bonuses. Many economists expect increases of about five per cent this time.

But the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations argues for holding down raises to keep Japanese business competitive.

Instead, it "suggests that high domestic prices should be reduced to help the people improve the condition of their daily life," said the federation's Yasuyuki Hirai.

He said the federation would like to see methods found to

simplify the costly system of mid-levelmen that goods pass through en route to consumers; pass on to consumers the benefits of the yen's rise, which lowers the cost of foreign products, fuel and raw materials and curb sharp recent rises in land and housing costs.

Kajiyama said his labour confederation also seeks to reduce average annual working hours to 1,800 by 1993 — matching a government target.

Labour ministry spokesman Yasuo Sato said the average, including overtime, was 2,111 hours last year.

The latest comparative figures for the manufacturing industry listed 2,150 hours for Japanese workers in 1986, 1,924 for Americans, 1,938 for Britons and 1,655 for West Germans.

Reducing annual hours would involve shortening the work week, now 5½ days at many companies, and persuading workers to take their full vacations. Many Japanese express uneasiness about taking time off while colleagues stay on the job.

The labour ministry says the average worker took only 7.6 days of his allotted 15 vacation days in 1987.

Figures show sharp increase in Soviet imports from West

MOSCOW (R) — Sharply higher Soviet imports from the West in 1988 contributed to a major trade imbalance, official figures released Wednesday showed.

Soviet foreign trade has been hit hard in recent years by lower world prices for oil and other raw materials, which account for the bulk of its hard currency exports. Kremlin plans to diversify export structure, boosting the percentage of finished products sold abroad, have had little impact as yet.

Data published Wednesday in the foreign trade journal Vneshtorgyaz showed the Soviet Union imported 16.3 billion roubles (\$26.1 billion) worth of goods from the developed

world last year after 13.9 billion roubles (\$22.2 billion).

Its exports to the West rose only slightly to 14.7 billion roubles (\$23.5 billion) from 14.2 billion (\$22.7 billion), creating a trade deficit of 1.6 billion roubles (\$2.7 billion).

The deficit follows a trade surplus of 312 million roubles (\$49 million) with the West in 1987 — the first surplus for three years.

The figures confirmed earlier statements by officials that the Soviet Union's overall trade balance last year worsened though turnover grew 2.5 per cent to 132 billion roubles (\$211 billion).

Total imports grew 7.1 per cent to 65 billion roubles (\$104 billion)

while exports slipped 1.5 per cent to 67 billion roubles (\$107 billion).

Vneshtorgyaz said the export of machinery and technical products last year did not rise fast enough, up only 0.3 per cent overall though its share in the total export structure rose to 16.2 per cent from 15.5 per cent.

It added that foodstuffs worth 10.3 billion roubles (\$16.5 billion) were imported in 1988, including 35 million tonnes of grain, 4.1 million tonnes of raw sugar and 0.7 million tonnes of meat and meat products.

It gave no comparative figures but said purchases of food and raw products for food production

accounted for 15.8 per cent of the country's total imports after 16.1 per cent in 1987.

Soviet officials have said no sugar was bought on the free market last year as all sugar imports came from Cuba under a long-standing contractual arrangement.

Vneshtorgyaz said consumer goods worth 8.3 billion roubles (\$13.3 billion) were bought abroad last year, 12.8 per cent of total imports after 13 per cent in 1987.

It added that machinery, equipment and transport purchases accounted for the bulk of imports — 40.9 per cent after 41.4 per cent in 1987.

Dollar strengthens despite warning

LONDON (R) — The dollar was near seven-month highs Wednesday despite a pledge from Japan that it would join Western central banks in trying to curb the U.S. currency's new-found strength if exchange rates fluctuated too wildly.

As world currency trade began in earnest after the long Easter holiday, the dollar climbed steeply Tuesday, closing at 1.8935

marks and 133.15 yen, its highest since last August.

In Europe Wednesday morning, the U.S. currency was once again nudging these levels although dealers said there had been some profit-taking.

The dollar's rise Tuesday prompted concerned but, according to dealers, relatively light intervention by West Germany's Bundesbank, the U.S. Federal

Reserve and eight other central banks.

These dollar sales, in which the Bank of Japan did not participate, failed to dampen the enthusiasm of investors attracted by relatively high U.S. interest rates.

But Wednesday Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita told a news conference in Tokyo that Japan would cooperate with other Western industrial nations

if exchange rates moved widely.

"Massive intervention is needed, otherwise we could be going considerably higher," said Steve Kelleher, corporate treasury adviser at Chemical Bank in London.

"The Bank of Japan has to come in and intervene very loudly and very aggressively and that would signal an intermediate top for the dollar," he added.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, March 29, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	84.1	85.0
U.S. dollar	338.0	342.0	Dutch guilder	251.8	254.2	
Pound Sterling	908.1	917.7	Swedish crown	83.3	84.2	
Deutschmark	283.8	286.8	Italian lira (for 100)	36.8	39.1	
Swiss franc	325.5	328.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	135.7	136.9	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	1.6850/50	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1940/50	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8928/35	Deutschmarks
	2.1345/55	Dutch guilders
	1.6515/25	Swiss francs
	39.63/66	Belgian francs
	6.3875/925	French francs
	1386/1387	Italian lire
	132.95/133.05	Japanese yen
	6.4460/510	Swedish crowns
	6.8740/90	Norwegian crowns
	7.3790/840	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	382.00/382.50	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The Australian share market was just off the day's lows by the close, driven down by a sell off in stocks with gold exposure. The All Ordinaries fell 7.4 to 1,479.3.

TOKYO — Share prices soared to a record close in brisk trade on a continuing buying spree. The trigger for the flurry was the arrival Tuesday of the first day of trade for delivery in the business year starting April 1 sparked buying. The Nikkei jumped 430.92 to a record close of 32,737.28.

HONG KONG — Blue chips ended virtually unchanged in thin trading in contrast to Tokyo's and New York's strong performance. The Hang Seng eased a mere 0.05 to 3,032.98.

SINGAPORE — The stock market closed on a mixed note after profit-taking alternated with selective bargain hunting in active trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 6.13 to 1,194.63.

BOMBAY — Share prices closed mixed on profit-taking towards the close after the market opened firm after two days of sharp price rises.

FRANKFURT — West German shares ended mixed in subdued trading as the continued strength of the dollar and high U.S. interest rates undermined prices. The real-time 30-share DAX index closed 2.79 points higher 1,309.26.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed generally slightly higher on low volume. The all-share Swiss performance index edged up 2.3 to 996.6 points while the index of leading shares rose 9.8 to 1,524.8.

LONDON — Prices were mixed in moderate late trading supported by a firmer Wall Street. At 1510 the FTSE index was up 1.7 points at 2,072.2.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks turned higher in early trading after a mixed opening. The Dow Jones rose 7.28 to 2,283 and gainers took a moderate lead over decliners.

Uneasy quiet settles over strife-torn province after two days of rioting

Albania demands end to Kosovo 'terror'

PARIS (Agencies) — Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile Wednesday demanded "an end to the terror" in Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo province and urged Belgrade to rein in its police.

"There must be an end to the terror. One must be wise, not use the police," Malile told reporters outside the French Foreign Ministry after talks with his counterpart Roland Dumas.

At least 21 people have been killed in a week of rioting in Kosovo, where members of the ethnic Albanian majority are protesting against Serbian dominance.

Asked about charges from Belgrade that Albania was secretly fomenting unrest among the people of Kosovo, Malile replied:

"It's a lie. We have no interest in doing that. It's a pretext, a

malady, accusing others to justify what happens there.

"We want stability in Yugoslavia," he said.

Asked if the situation could develop into what one reporter described as a "Balkans powder-keg," he said: "We hope not."

Malile, the first Albanian foreign minister to visit France in 42 years, had just signed a civil aviation accord with Dumas in a gilded room at the Quai d'Orsay.

Both ministers said they looked forward to widening relations between the two countries in all spheres.

However, French diplomats

were at pains not to let Paris get involved in a dispute between Yugoslavia and Albania.

Dumas stood silently alongside his guest as Malile answered questions on the front steps of the Foreign Ministry building.

Tirana, gradually emerging from decades of self-imposed isolation under the late Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha, is due to host a top-level conference of Balkan states next year.

Meanwhile in Kosovo an uneasy quiet prevailed Wednesday after two days of rioting by ethnic Albanians left as many as 21 people dead and 76 injured.

A spokeswoman for Kosovo's Information Office, Marija Gasi, told the AP: "Today the situation in Kosovo is normal. There has been no single extraordinary event."

However, Radmilo Bogdanovic, interior minister of the Republic of Serbia, described the situation as "dramatic and changing from hour to hour."

For six consecutive days, ethnic Albanians angered by Serbia's efforts to tighten its control over Kosovo have pelted security forces with stones and police have responded with tear gas.

"The security forces are making great efforts to restore peace and order," Bogdanovic told Serbia's parliament in Belgrade.

The Federal Interior Ministry in Belgrade said Tuesday that the unrest resembled an armed uprising and appeared well organized.

Extra police were dispatched to Kosovo from throughout Yugoslavia.

Bogdanovic estimated that 14,000 ethnic Albanians battled

2,400 police on the streets of Kosovo Monday, the day of the greatest bloodshed and rioting. Two police officers were killed.

The state news agency Tanjug said 76 people have been injured in the unrest, two more than the figure released by the Interior Ministry.

The ministry reported 25 policemen injured, five of them seriously, and 49 demonstrators hurt.

Authorities had imposed an 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew on the province Monday and forbade public gatherings of more than three people.

But street fighting flared anew Tuesday. In Zur, a village near the border with Albania, protests reportedly continued into the night after police shot to death an 18-year-old village youth.

Meese warned North about cover-up

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Attorney General Edwin Meese testified Tuesday that he warned Oliver North not to conceal what he knew about the Iran-contra affair to protect himself or then-President Ronald Reagan.

Meese, testifying for the prosecution in North's criminal trial, said he told North at the beginning of an administrative inquiry into the case that Reagan's political opponents would try to topple the president if they sensed a cover-up.

"The worst that could happen is if someone tried to conceal anything to protect themselves or the president or to try to put a good spin on it," Meese said.

Meese said he only became aware of a plan to divert the proceeds from arms sales to Iran



Edwin Meese

to the Nicaraguan contra rebels in November 1986, just days before North was fired from his job at the Reagan administration National Security Council (NSC).

While acknowledging he had given advice on the Iran arms sale as early as January 1986, he said he learned of the diversion of funds to the Contras Nov. 22, 1986, after Justice Department aides found a memorandum in the NSC files.

Czech hijackers surrender

FRANKFURT (R) — Two teenage Czechoslovak gunmen hijacked a Hungarian airliner from Prague to Frankfurt Wednesday and then surrendered to West German authorities, police said.

There were no reported injuries to the 10 passengers and three crew aboard the Soviet-made Tupolev 34 (RPT 134), which was commandeered at Prague airport.

Frankfurt police spokesman Kurt Kraus said the hijackers were Czechoslovak youths, aged 15 and 16, who were armed with a sawn-off shotgun and a rifle.

The airline of the Hungarian state airline Malev landed at Frankfurt airport at 12:32 p.m. (10:32 GMT). Negotiations followed for 30 minutes before the hijackers left the plane and gave themselves up, an airport spokesman said.

Kraus said the hijackers were being questioned to establish their motives. The passengers and crew were also being ques-

tioned, he said.

The plane was parked in a freight area after the drama ended, he said.

In Prague, the state press agency CTK said the Czechoslovak government had taken steps to extradite the hijackers, whom it called terrorists.

Hungarian radio said earlier the hijackers spoke Slovak, the language of Czechoslovakia's eastern Slovakian region, but were initially thought to be Polish.

Kraus denied reports that the hijackers denied themselves over to U.S. military authorities.

Frankfurt airport, continental Europe's busiest, shares runways with a U.S. air force base next door.

Kraus said the two had boarded a West German police vehicle.

The Malev flight originated in Budapest, the Hungarian capital, with 110 passengers aboard. It flew as scheduled to Prague for a

stopover before it was to continue to Amsterdam.

Hungarian radio said two men with guns and brandishing hand grenades seized the airliner at Prague airport, demanding originally to be taken to the United States.

The pilot replied he could fly only within Europe and the hijackers then chose Barcelona, Spain, the radio said.

An air traffic controller in Barcelona said shortly afterwards the plane was on its way there, but in Amsterdam, a Schiphol airport security spokesman said he had received information that it was heading for Frankfurt.

Hungarian Radio said only 10 passengers were left on board the plane after it left Prague following an offer by Hungary's consul in Prague, Lajos Taba, to act as hostage.

Some passengers were able to escape through the back door of the aircraft before it took off from the Czechoslovak capital.

Hollywood goes on mad spending spree for Oscars

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Hollywood has gone on a spending spree for Wednesday's Oscar Awards which film experts predict will honour "Rain Man" and its star Dustin Hoffman as the victors.

Fans are snapping up tickets at \$2,500, up to 100 times their original value, for the show.

Five hundred chauffeur-driven limousines have been booked at \$500 a time to bring in the stars.

A thousand metres of red carpet have been rolled out. Fans are sleeping in the outdoor stands awaiting the celebrities and giant golden statues of Oscars are guarding the entrance to the theatre, the Shrine Auditorium.

Every Beverly Hills hair salon is booked solid for the day and there is not a dinner suit to be hired. The champagne is on ice.

The annual awards will be watched by an estimated one billion-strong world television audience, including the Soviet Union for the first time.

Brokers said they have sold dozens of tickets, originally bought by film industry employees for between \$25 and \$150, for \$2,500 each.

Within hours the fans are expected by film experts to watch Hoffman accept his second Oscar in 10 years for his role in Rain Man as an autistic savant who has sparks of genius but cannot handle everyday events.

The film, which leads the field with eight nominations, is also heavily favoured to be chosen Best Picture.

"I'm walking on clouds," Hoffman, who won his first Oscar for

Kramer vs. Kramer, told reporters.

In the Best Actress category, Glenn Close, nominated five times in eight films but still to win an Oscar, is considered a close favourite with 26-year-old Jodie Foster.

Close was nominated for her role of the scheming aristocrat in the period drama of seduction, Dangerous Liaisons. Foster was chosen for her portrayal of a woman raped in a bar while bystanders cheered in the film The Accused.

The 4,632 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, a conservative body which chooses the winners, have shown in the past that they like spectacular films and this may give Close the edge.

Martin Landau, best known for the television series Mission Impossible, faces strong competition from Sir Alec Guinness but could be rewarded for appearing in more than 50 films with an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for Tucker: The Man and His Dream.

Sigourney Weaver, nominated for Best Supporting Actress for her role of a Wall Street boss who loses out to her secretary in Working Girl, is generally considered by the experts a strong favourite against lesser known actresses such as Joan Cusack and Frances McDormand.

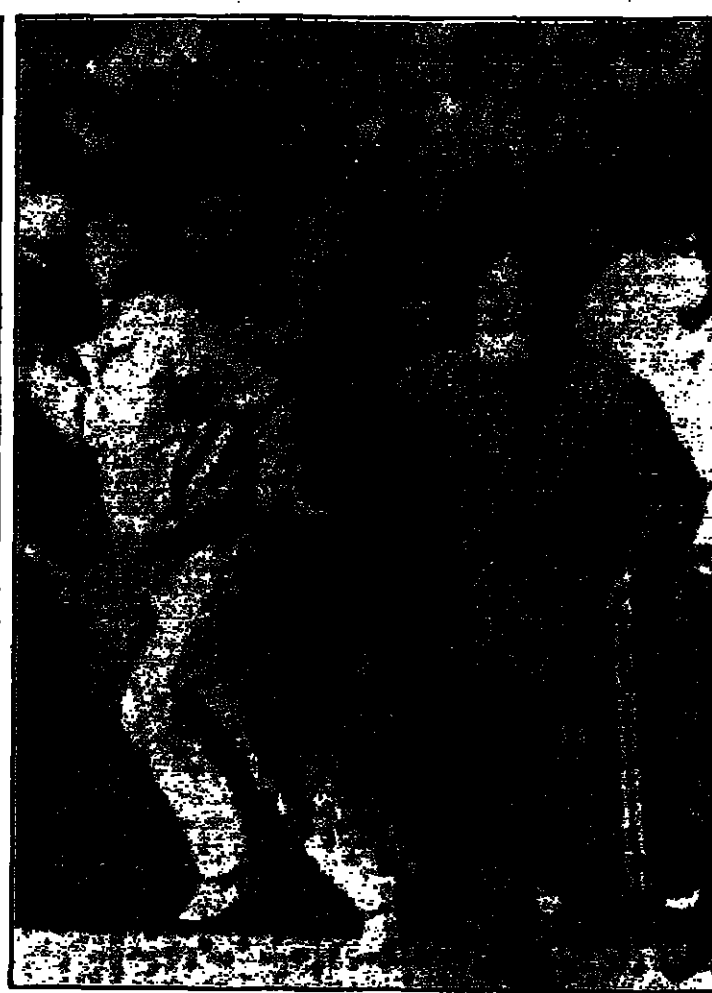
Allan Carr, the Oscar show producer, has added some new twists this year. There will be no emcee. Instead, presenters will be duets of stars, some married or romantically linked to each other.

These include Ryan O'Neal and Farrah Fawcett, Melanie Griffith and Don Johnson and Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell.

Carr, who took Broadway by storm with La Cage aux Folles, predicted a show that will combine "the best of movies, the best of Broadway and the best of television all rolled into one."

Apart from Rain Man, in the Best Picture category the Accidental Tourist, Dangerous Liaisons, Mississippi Burning and Working Girl are also nominated.

In the best actress category Meryl Streep was nominated for a Cry in the Dark, Glenn Close was selected for Dangerous Liaisons, Jodie Foster was named for The Accused, Sigourney Weaver was nominated for Gorillas in the Mist and Miss Griffith was chosen for Working Girl.



South Korean students throw petrol bombs as they march out of Seoul's Yonsei University.

Roh shakes-up army

SEOUL (AP) — President Roh Tae-woo ordered a major shake-up involving 49 senior generals after military hardliners criticised his failure to suppress dissidents, officials and news reports said Wednesday.

Roh was reportedly replacing several right-wingers in key security posts with generals loyal to him. Many senior commanders being retired or transferred to lesser posts were allies of former President Chun Doo-hwan.

A Defence Ministry spokesman, who refused to be identified in keeping with official practice, said a major shuffle was ordered in the army's high command. He would not elaborate, but details appeared in all Seoul newspapers.

The shake-up had been expected next month. It follows reports that hardliners in the government and military were unhappy with what they saw as Roh's failure to curb anti-government radicals and his efforts to build ties with communist nations.

A further shakeup of divisional commanders was expected to be announced in the coming weeks. Opposition parties said Tuesday the realignment was needed to prevent military meddling in politics. The army has been a major force in South Korean politics and twice seized power in the nation's 40-year history.

Roh, a former general who won presidential elections in December 1987, has tried to pursue a moderate policy and portray himself as a populist. But the government has not won the broad support Roh sought.

Ministry officials said spring changes in the army high command were normal, but the number of posts said to be involved was much larger than in routine shuffles.

Indications of unhappiness with Roh had been increasing. Administration Minister Kim Yong-Kap quit the cabinet this month after attacking the government for not suppressing dissidents and radical students.

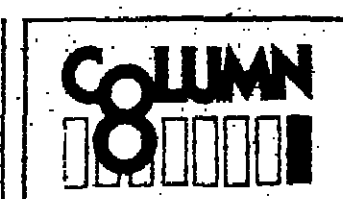
Last week, the commander of the South Korean Military Academy, Lieutenant General Min Byung-Don, failed to salute Roh at graduation ceremonies and made a speech criticising government efforts to establish ties with communist nations.

Roh wants to ease the confrontation with communist North Korea by building relations with its allies.

This week, senior generals issued an unprecedented statement demanding that leading dissident Moon Ik-Hwan be punished for illegally visiting North Korea. Moon reportedly met Monday with North Korean leader Kim Il Sung to discuss reuniting the Korean Peninsula, divided after World War II.

The two Koreas are bitter rivals, and Kim ordered the 1950 invasion that started the Korean War. The Seoul government said Moon was trying to undermine its authority and warned he would be arrested if he returned home.

The government is reportedly split between those demanding a harsh crackdown on dissidents and moderates loyal to Roh who favour pragmatic and conciliatory policies.



Crushing elephant goes to the circus

TAMPA (AP) — An Asian elephant that fatally crushed a Busch Gardens handler last month has been sold to Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus for its breeding programme, a spokesman for the theme park said. Busch Gardens officials set out to sell the three-ton animal crushed a handler to death Feb. 5. The elephant, named Casey, was sold and left the park last week, spokesman David Conrod said Tuesday.

Yazov makes fun of coup report

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov Sunday brushed aside with a wisecrack an American press report that he might have tried to stage a coup against Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "I've never even thought of it," the tall, burly general told reporters with a grin at the polling station where he cast his vote in the Soviet general elections. "But you do go in for all sorts of inventions in the West," added Yazov, who was appointed in 1987 by Gorbachev over the heads of more senior officers to spearhead a tightening of discipline in the armed forces. Yazov, 65, arrived at the polling station on Kosygin street in the south of Moscow an hour before Gorbachev. According to Soviet sources, the Yazovs and the Gorbachevs live in the same official apartment building just 200 metres away.

Baldy keeps warm with flannel shirts

HILLMAN, Minnesota (AP) — A rare Holstein calf born without hair has survived its first month by wearing flannel shirts and leg wraps, but it now faces the risk of fatal sunburn as summer approaches. "The local vet (veterinarian) has been here a couple of times to look at him, and he said he's seen calves with two heads or five legs, but he's never had to deal with one that doesn't have any hair," said Virgil Hoheisel, the owner of Baldy. Except for a small patch of fur on its hind quarters and two wispy tufts on its forehead, the Hillman farmer's calf is as bald as a cue ball. It doesn't even have eyelashes. "When it was born, he reminded me of one of those little baby mice without any hair," Hoheisel's wife, Mary Lou, told the St. Cloud Times newspaper recently. Raising a hairless calf has posed some unusual problems. Baldy eats considerably more than most calves his age, yet he stays surprisingly svelte. Almost all of his food energy is consumed in keeping warm and not much is left for growing, the Hoheisels said. To warm Baldy, the owners have outfitted him in old flannel shirts. And because he bruises and cuts easily, Mrs. Hoheisel has fitted him with leg wraps.

Underwear-mania hits Japan

TOKYO (R) — Japanese women are buying luxury silk underwear at a furious rate thanks to reasonable prices and pocketbooks full of cash, industry insiders said Tuesday. "Japanese people have lots of money to burn these days," said a spokesman for the Wacoal Corporation, Japan's largest lingerie maker. "You could say it has led them to buy more luxury items like silk." Wacoal's sales of silk underwear, bras, panties and other lingerie, jumped 150 per cent to 230 million yen (\$1.75 million) over the past year, he said. A pair of silk panties costs about 3,000 yen (\$22) while a brassiere is about 8,000 (\$60).

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	07	46	16 61 Clear
ATHENS	10	50	22 72 Clear
BAHRAIN	17	83	24 75 Clear
BANGKOK	26	79	33 91 Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	13	55	27 80 Clear
CAIRO	13	55	24 75 Clear
CHICAGO	10	51	20 68 Rain
COPENHAGEN	04	25	39 93 Clear
FRANKFURT	08	48	24 75 Clear
GENEVA	05	41	22 71 Clear
HONG KONG	18	64	22 72 Clear
ISTANBUL	04	39	13 55 Clear
LONDON	07	45	16 61 Clear
LOS ANGELES	12	52	22 71 Clear
MADRID	04	36	11 52 Clear
MECCA	21	70	61 88 Cloudy
MANN	23	74	26 78 Cloudy
MONTREAL	04	36	19 66 Cloudy
MOSCOW	04	24	39 93 Clear
NEW DELHI	14	57	26 78 Clear
NEW YORK	13	55	26 82 Rain
PARIS	13	55	23 73 Clear
ROME	05	43	16 61 Clear
TOKYO	08	41	23 73 Clear
VIENNA	10	50	21 68 Clear

Oil spill angers Alaskans

VALDEZ, Alaska (AP) — High-ranking U.S. officials began evaluating Exxon's cleanup of the nation's worst oil spill as angry fishermen wearing black armbands vented their frustrations with the efforts.

President George Bush dispatched the team Tuesday to determine whether the federal government should take over the cleanup from Exxon Shipping Co. He said he has received conflicting reports about Exxon's response to the spill that occurred when the Exxon Valdez rammed a

mediated after arriving in Valdez.

After their tour, Skinner said it would be inappropriate to make any judgments until they talked to those involved in the cleanup. They planned to meet with shipping company representatives and state and federal agencies, then report back to Bush.

In the fishing village of Cordova, 80 kilometres to the southeast, angry residents packed a school gymnasium Tuesday night for a meeting with state and Exxon officials. Many of the town's 2,500 residents had opposed using Valdez as the southern terminus for the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline.

Resident Maria Adkins said the oil industry had promised to have adequate equipment on hand to handle any spills. "What happened here is not what we were told would happen 10 years ago," she said.

Fisherman John Booren said he feared publicity about the spill would destroy the market for the area's fish, even if the damage

is contained.

The spill into the once-pristine Prince William Sound forced the closure of Valdez port. Flow through the pipeline, which supplies nearly one-fourth of the nation's supply of domestic crude oil, was reduced to 800,000 barrels a day from 2.1 million.

When the port reopened Tuesday, 10 tankers led by the Arco Sag river were waiting to enter port and load at the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company marine terminal, Coast Guard Lt. Ed Wieliczewicz said.

With state assistance, a Cordova fishermen's group dispatched a few dozen boats with cleanup gear to protect three important pink salmon hatcheries in the path of the rapidly spreading slick.

"Frankly, we are past attempting to recover much oil," said Larry Dietrick, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation spokesman. "Our primary efforts are now in the defence of very sensitive areas."



Supertanker Exxon Valdez (insert) surrounded by 11 million gallons of crude oil in Prince William Sound after the tanker ran aground on a charted reef.

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